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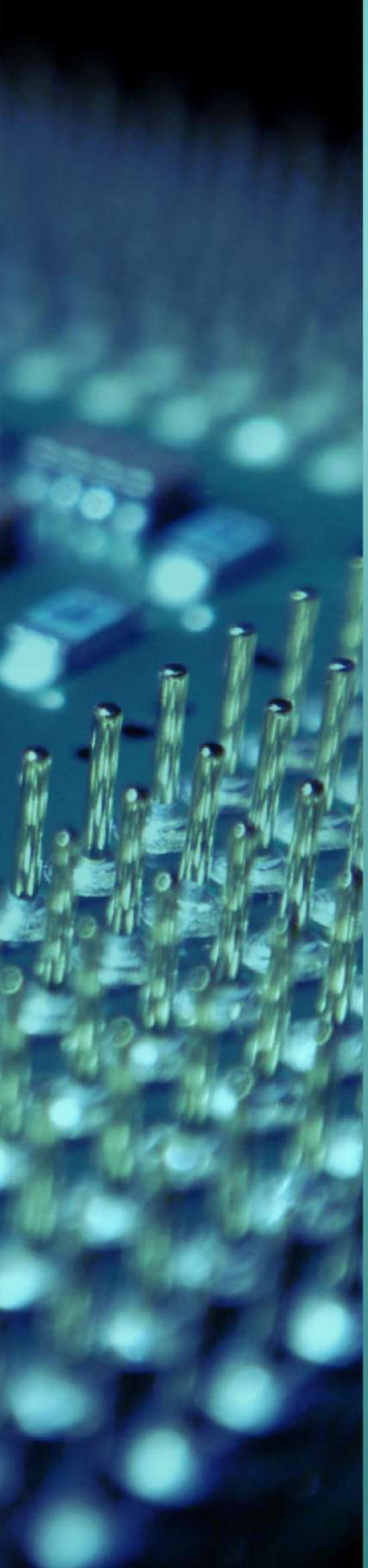




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WHY CREDIT BUREAU EXPERIAN HAS DATA ON T-MOBILE CUSTOMERS

In the latest high-profile breach of a U.S. organization, hackers broke into Experian's database of information on 15 million T-Mobile customers and potential customers. But what is Experian, and why does the credit bureau keep data on a wireless carrier's customers?

Here's a Q&A about what happened at Experian and what could happen next.

Image: Elise Amendola



WHAT INFORMATION DOES EXPERIAN HAVE ON ME?

If you've applied for a credit card, mortgage, student loan or any financial product in the last three decades, Experian likely has some sort of data on you. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau estimates Experian, Equifax and TransUnion hold records on more than 200 million Americans.

The data can be basic information like your address and birthdate. But if you've applied for credit, the agencies could know more about your financial situation than your parents or spouse do. They'll have your Social Security number, all of the banks you have credit card accounts with, the limit on those cards and if you pay them down regularly. They can know your work history, if you've had any collections or court judgments against you or if you've ever defaulted on a loan.

WHY COLLECT THE INFORMATION?

Banks and other lenders need to know whether you're a good borrower and pay your debts and would prefer to gather that information quickly and relatively cheaply. Credit agencies provide a storehouse of data that lenders can pull to make credit decisions. In turn, those lenders report their data back to the agencies so other lenders to have access to more data.

This ongoing database becomes known as a person's credit report. The data can be further processed into what's known as a credit score, which is a way of boiling down years of financial information into a "grade" that banks can look at to decide whether to lend to you or not.

WHY WAS EXPERIAN COLLECTING AND HOLDING INFORMATION FOR T-MOBILE?

T-Mobile has to decide whether to allow a potential customer to open an account or to finance their newly purchased phone. Anyone applying for cell service, with some exceptions like a prepaid phone, needs to get a credit check before T-Mobile or other carriers approve service.

T-Mobile, which contracted out the credit check to Experian, says applicants from between September 1, 2013 and September 16, 2015 were affected.




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WHAT INFORMATION WAS TAKEN? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Names, addresses, Social Security numbers, birthdates and driver's license numbers.

But Experian says the T-Mobile consumer data and its consumer credit database - the credit reports noted above - are housed on a separate server and those records were not exposed in the hack.

T-Mobile said affected consumers can sign up for two free years of credit monitoring services at **www.protectmyID.com/securityincident**, a service owned by Experian.

The offering of an Experian monitoring service led to protests on Twitter, and T-Mobile may announce other options for its consumers to protect their data. CEO Legere said on Twitter that contracting out Experian was the fastest way to protect customers' data, but they are working on providing an alternative.

WHO REGULATES THE CREDIT AGENCIES?

The federal regulator of Experian, TransUnion, Equifax and the other smaller credit agencies is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The CFPB, which was created after the 2008 financial crisis, started regulating credit agencies in September 2012. It was the first time a federal agency had weighed in on the industry.

WILL THERE BE ANY CONSEQUENCES FOR EXPERIAN?

It is too soon to tell. The CFPB, in a statement, said they "are concerned about the recent breach of consumer information" and will be monitoring the situation. Experian could face fines and possible increased regulatory scrutiny as well if it is found liable for how the breach occurred.

And T-Mobile could stop using Experian. In a letter to customers, T-Mobile CEO John Legere had said that he was "incredibly angry" about the breach and that the company would review its relationship with Experian.

CAN YOUTHS IN 'HACKATHON' HELP STRUGGLING CITY HELP ITSELF?

Can computer coding help turn this impoverished city around? One nonprofit group thinks so, and is bringing together youths and professional programmers for Camden's first "hackathon" this weekend.

Hopeworks 'N Camden, a youth development organization that among other things offers technology and training classes for teenagers and young adults, is holding the event this Saturday. They'll team up the students with professionals, some of them from Subaru, which plans to move its North American headquarters to the city of 77,000 across the Delaware River from Philadelphia.

Organizers say the benefit is twofold: Students can network and learn more about coding, and in the process work on projects that could benefit the city, a former industrial hub that with the loss of manufacturing became among the country's poorest and most dangerous.

"The reality is Camden can produce a lot of things," said Dan Rhoten, executive director of the nonprofit Hopeworks. "We're used to thinking of Camden as a helpless victim."

And showing young people that they don't have to "look like Mark Zuckerberg," the founder of Facebook - or have a college degree to build a career in technology - is also useful, he said.

Gabrielle Lee, 23, wants to get out of Camden but then return to teach English as a second language, and do other things to help. She sees online learning as a part of the efforts she'd like to make.

"Being at Hopeworks makes me want to impart my skills," she said.

In this first session, teams will work on designing new websites for four nonprofit organizations. Just one of them - the Mayor's Youth Council - is based in Camden.

But Rhoten said he plans to hold hackathons every six months or so. Part of the idea is that Camden government agencies and nonprofits would know they're coming and be able to request projects. A session, for instance, could upgrade a city website intended to collect complaints from citizens on issues such as abandoned properties.

Camden is in the midst of ambitious transformation efforts. The state government has taken over the school district and is assigning charter school operators to run some existing public schools; the Camden County government has taken over policing the city and has a bigger force of officers than the city had; and the state is offering tax credits for businesses that move into the city.

Besides Subaru, other companies committed to coming include the Philadelphia 76ers, which are building a practice facility and offices; Holtec, which builds components for nuclear power plants; and American Water.

The tech students at Hopeworks see the arrival of big business as a good thing, though a development that may not help the city's residents directly or immediately.

The youths help Camden improve, too, Rhoten said, and show the city that it need not rely solely on outsiders.

One of the Hopeworks trainees, West Lalanne, a 21-year-old Rutgers University-Camden student who grew up largely in Massachusetts but now lives in Camden with his mother, said the hackathons can bring people together.

"Right now Camden is a world where we have small communities," he said, "but we don't have a large community."

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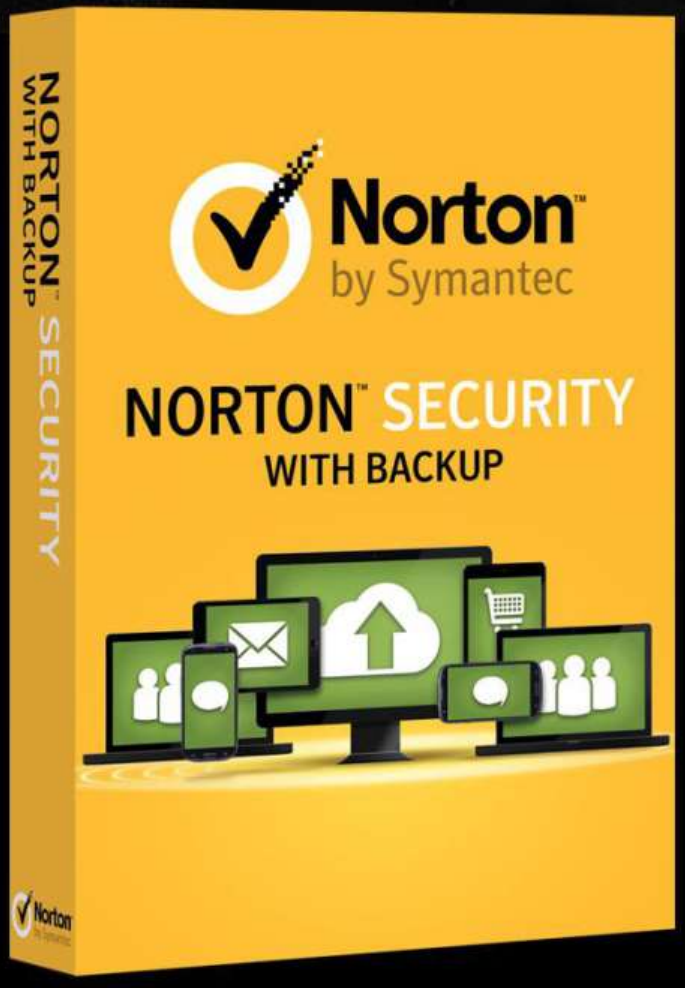
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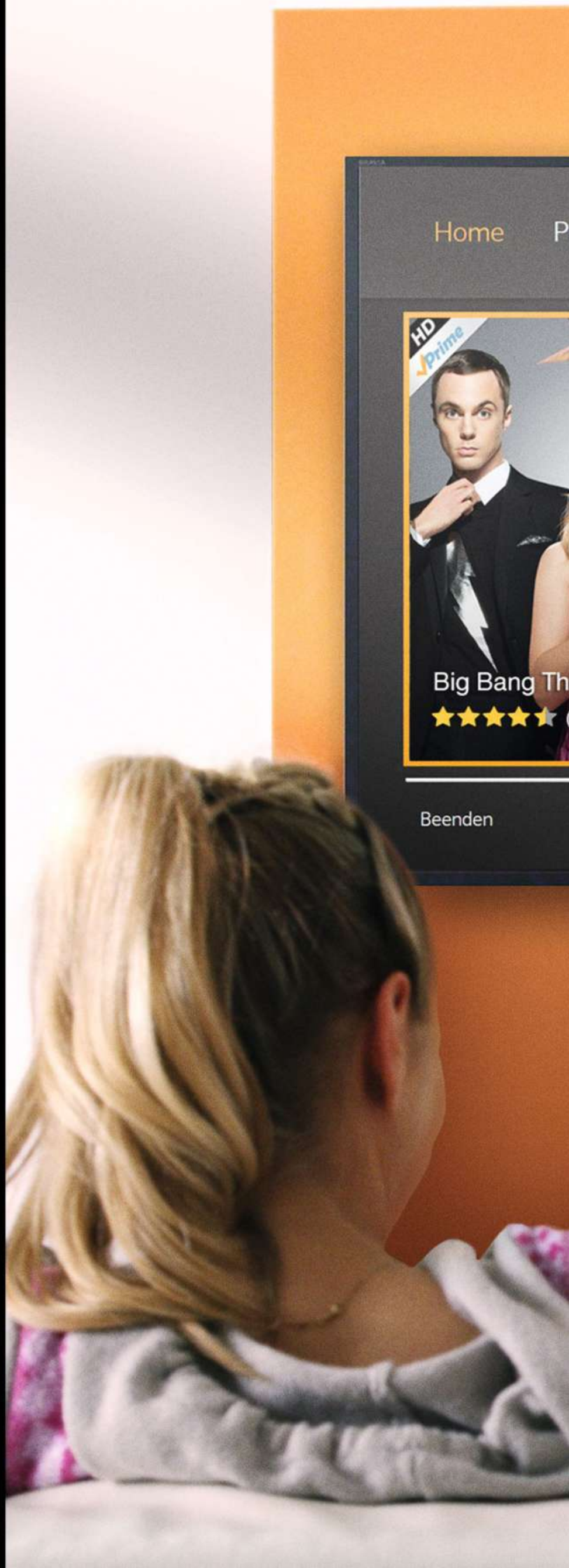
BUY NOW

AMAZON TO BAN SALE OF RIVAL VIDEO STREAMING DEVICES

Amazon will stop allowing the sale of Google and Apple video-streaming devices on its site as it focuses on its own Prime Instant Video streaming service.

Prime Video has become an important part of Amazon's $99 annual Prime loyalty membership program. The video-streaming devices sold on the site should be able to work with Prime Video, the company said Thursday.

"It's important that the streaming media players we sell interact well with Prime Video in order to avoid customer confusion," the Amazon said.




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Filme
Serien
amazon instant video
eory - Staffel 6
100)
Ihre Watchlist
Programmtipps der Woche
Genres
Ihre Video-Bibliothek
Meist gesehene Filme
Meist gesehene Serien
Wählen
Hilfe
Suche

Along with Amazon's Fire TV, the site will still sell other companies' video-streaming devices that are compatible with Prime Video, including Roku, Xbox and PlayStation. But Apple TV and Google's Chromecast will be not be sold.

Google Inc. and Apple Inc. did not immediately respond to requests for comment

Seattle-based Amazon has been rapidly expanding its Prime Video Service, including recently inked deals to stream NBCUniversal's critically acclaimed drama "Mr. Robot" and a multiyear licensing agreement with CBS.

Amazon.com Inc. shares closed up $8.83, or 1.7 percent, to $520.72 Thursday.





The iPhone 6S: the best camera phone yet?

You can even shoot and edit 4K video!






iPhone
S



With the name's sole difference of an tagged-on 'S', you might have expected the iPhone 6S to represent only a minor bump-up in specs and features in comparison to the iPhone 6. However, closer inspection since the handset's launch has revealed it to be arguably the most significant 'S' release iPhone yet - and one major reason is the improved camera and camera features. Here, we take a detailed picture - pun very much intended - of what the iPhone 6S has to offer in this area.

MEGA INCREASES IN MEGAPIXELS

An obvious starting point for analysis here is the rear camera. With its 8-megapixel back shooter, the iPhone 6 is no slouch for capturing detailed, high resolution imagery. That camera does, however, have the same number of megapixels as the one that shipped with the iPhone 4S four years ago. The iPhone 6S's back camera, meanwhile, sports 12 megapixels - allowing for even more detailed photography.

The front camera - the one that would probably be most commonly used for selfies and FaceTime calls - has seen a similarly significant leap, from 1.2 megapixels in the iPhone 6 to a whopping 5 megapixels in its successor. Hollywood star Selena Gomez certainly approves, judging from her thankful reaction in the iPhone 6S screen commercial that debuted at Apple's September keynote - but what differences do these cameras, particularly the back one, really bring for the rest of us? The short answer: many...

DON'T NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE? LOOK CLOSER...

At this stage, we should probably emphasize that, for the vast majority of people who regularly take photographs using their iPhone 6S and used to do the same with an iPhone 4S, 5, 5S or 6, there will be no discernible difference in the quality of the photos. Indeed, as a camera-equipped smartphone rather than a dedicated camera, the shooters tend to be put to relatively casual use and their photos published at relatively small sizes, as on social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Where the differences become much more apparent, however, is in zooming up close to or increasing the size of photos that have been taken with the new back camera. In its in-depth test comparing this camera with that of last year's iPhone 6 Plus, TechnoBuffalo has noted more intricate detail in cropped-in photos. Regardless of whether such shots are taken indoors or outdoors, the 6S Plus photos look, as the site describes, "way sharper". As can be seen **in the site's YouTube feature**, colors on the 6 Plus photos can certainly look more washed out and less vibrant.

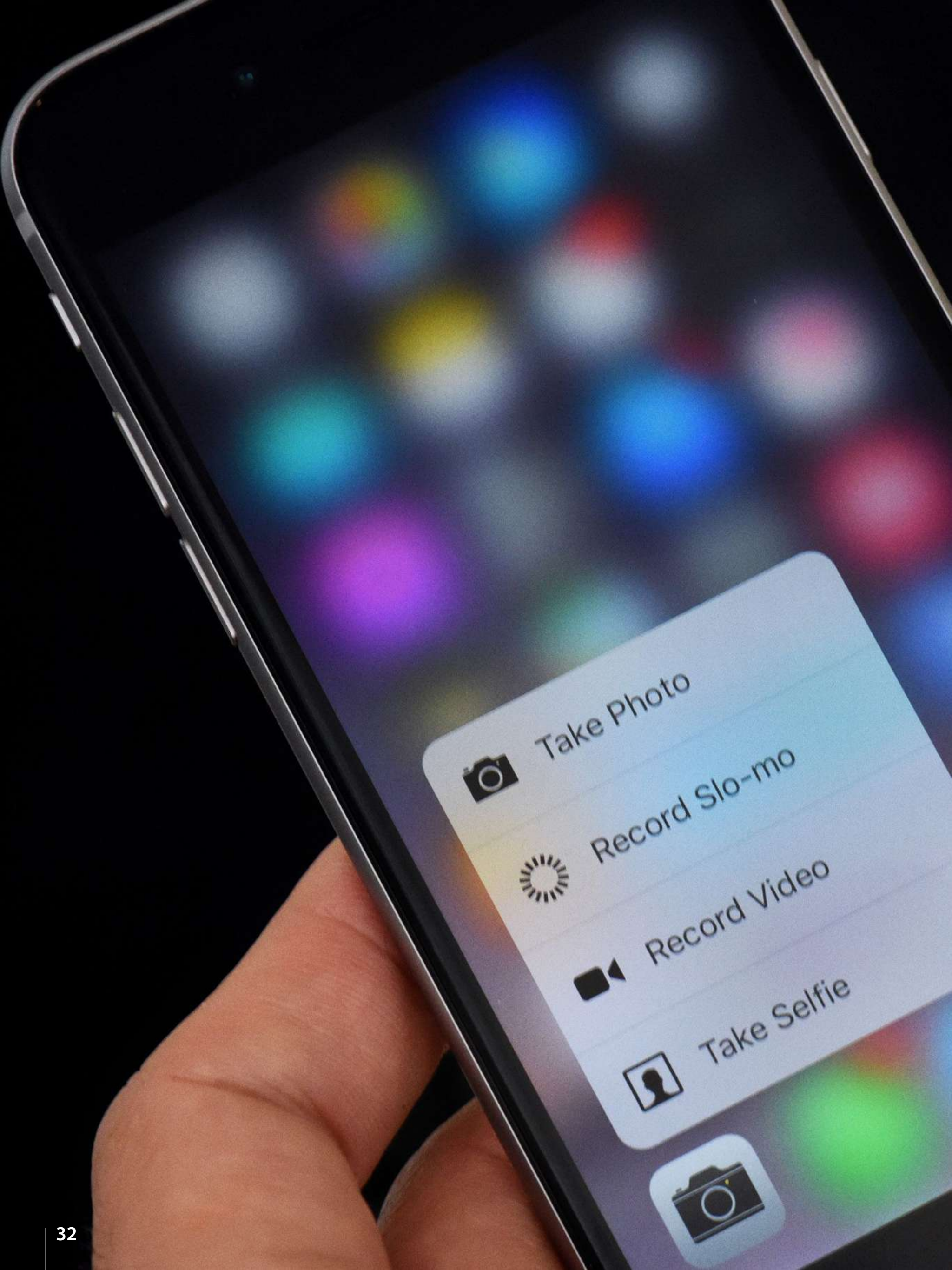


BUT WAIT! MEGAPIXELS DON'T TELL THE WHOLE STORY

All that said, there remain other smartphone cameras that can capture imagery in many more megapixels than the iPhone 6S. The **camera on the Nokia Lumia 1020, for example, reaches a huge 41 megapixels**. So, would it be a foregone conclusion to assume that the quality of this camera's images is significantly higher? Actually, we can reply to that with a resounding "No!"



iPhone 6s Plus vs iPhone 6 Plus Camera Comparison!


Take Photo
Record Slo-mo
Record Video
Take Selfie



As **explained by expert photographer Ben Lovejoy for 9to5Mac**, the pixel count alone is insufficient for assessing photo resolution. Camera phones of higher pixels, he adds, tend to struggle more to capture accurate imagery at low light due to their small sensors compared to sensors of more advanced DSLR and compact cameras. Often, they can try to compensate by considerably amplifying the sensor's signal. However, Lovejoy adds, amplification on a small sensor can itself adversely affect image quality.

Indeed, Tech Insider's Antonio Villas-Boas has claimed that **the two best smartphone cameras are in the iPhone 6S Plus and Samsung Galaxy Note 5**. He has also compared photography from the two handsets for a wide array of scenes, including low-light shots, outdoor shots and selfies, and noted how the iPhone betters the Samsung alternative in most respects. He concludes by branding the iPhone 6S Plus "the new reigning champion of smartphone cameras."

WELL, IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE PROFESSIONALS...

Still, the proof of the pudding is in the eating - and, surely enough, the iPhone 6 and 6S have both been frequently used for professional photography and video productions. Earlier this year, prestige car maker Bentley **posted a behind-the-scenes video** showing how iPhone 6 and 6 Plus phones were used for the filming of its commercial for a driving jacket, while **Emmy Award-winning director Tristan Pope shot his film Romance in NYC on an iPhone 6**.

There are further examples. Earlier this year, Apple dedicated a part of its website, titled "Shot on iPhone 6", to photographs and videos of various scenes from various parts of the world. The scenes ranged from a huge wave at a Hawaiian beach, to a car racing in Bolivia, to a train in Alaska - but **each of them had been captured on an iPhone 6 or 6 Plus**. Many of these scenes have also appeared in print media, billboards and television commercials of Apple's global "Shot on iPhone 6" advertising campaign.

YOU'RE EVEN MORE OK WITH 4K

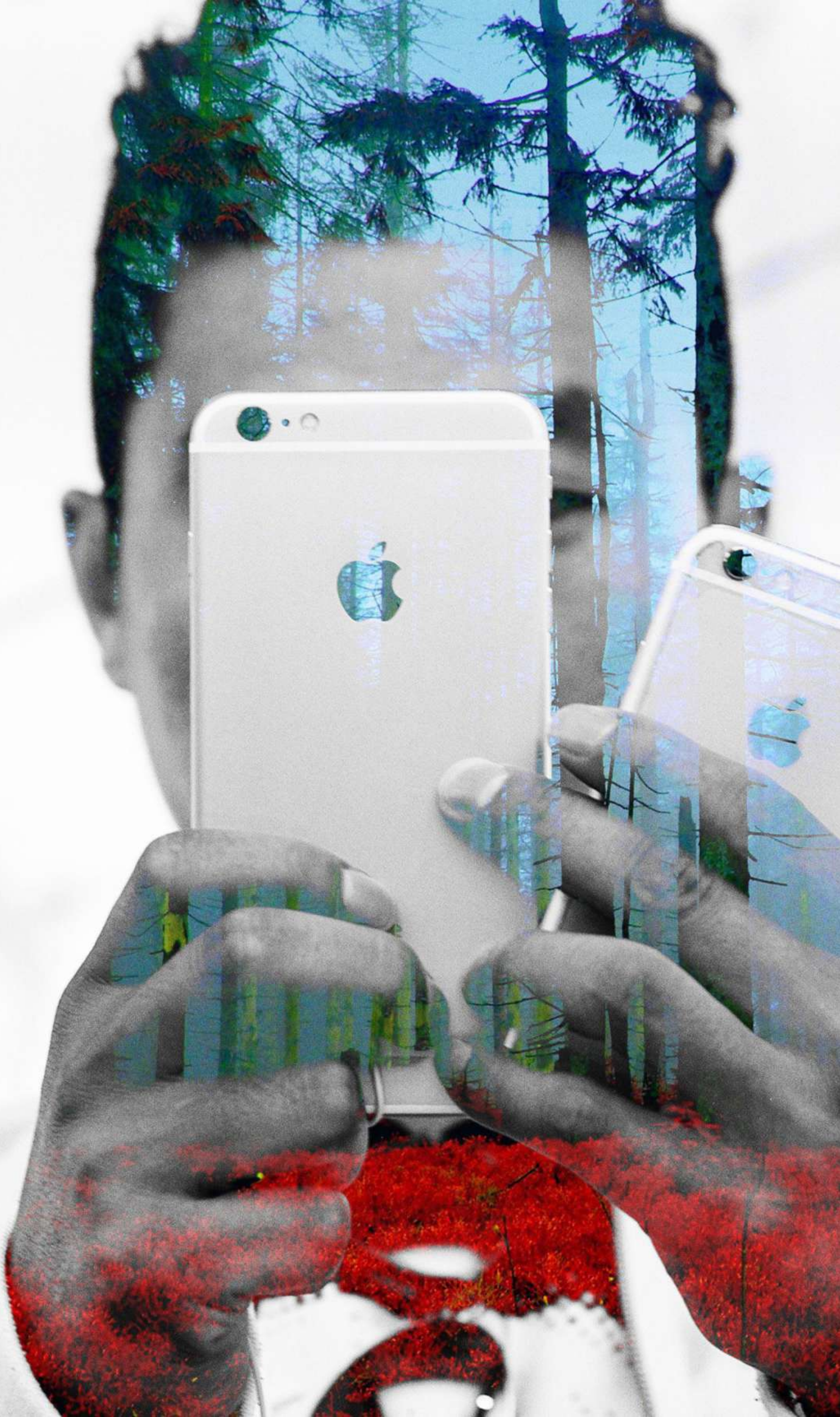
As has been made clear in this article, the iPhone 6S main camera is more than suitable for creating professional standard photography and video. But, on the subject of video, the iPhone 6S can take that to an even more sophisticated level with another of its major new abilities: shooting 4K video.

4K is a staggeringly sharp resolution for video; in fact, it is four times the pixels of 1080p video. 4K videos can naturally take up a lot of storage on an iPhone 6S - as much as 300 to 400 MB per minute, or about 1 GB per three minutes. However, the huge amount of data makes it easier to significantly crop, pan, stabilize and otherwise edit a 4K video and still remain with gorgeous-looking video.

It's possible to do much editing on the iPhone 6S itself; as explained by iMore in **a comprehensive guide to the handset's 4K video capabilities**, the Camera or Photos app can be used for trimming, while Apple's iMovie app allows for more advanced editing, including adding themes, titles and transitions. It's also possible to share 4K video









from the iPhone - such as to YouTube, which accepts 4K uploads.

The inclusion of 4K video on the iPhone 6S goes a long way towards future-proofing the device. That's because 4K is still an emerging video standard - even television sets capable of showing 4K video are not yet typical in living rooms. Nonetheless, **4K-enabled TVs are now hitting the market in greater numbers and at less daunting prices**. Therefore, you could find yourself watching your own 4K footage on a little black box sooner than you currently anticipate.

THE BEST CAMERA PHONES ON THE MARKET?

So, improved back and front cameras, professional photo- and video-taking capabilities, and impressive 4K video functions, too. These are all features that many of us already cradling an iPhone 6S or 6S Plus might only fulfill, or even notice, the full potential of months - or perhaps even years - further down the line. Do all of these features collectively make the iPhone 6S and 6S Plus the best camera phones available right now? You're probably already experimenting with your new iPhone's twin cameras to judge that for yourself. Smile for the camera! ■

by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin Lenaghan

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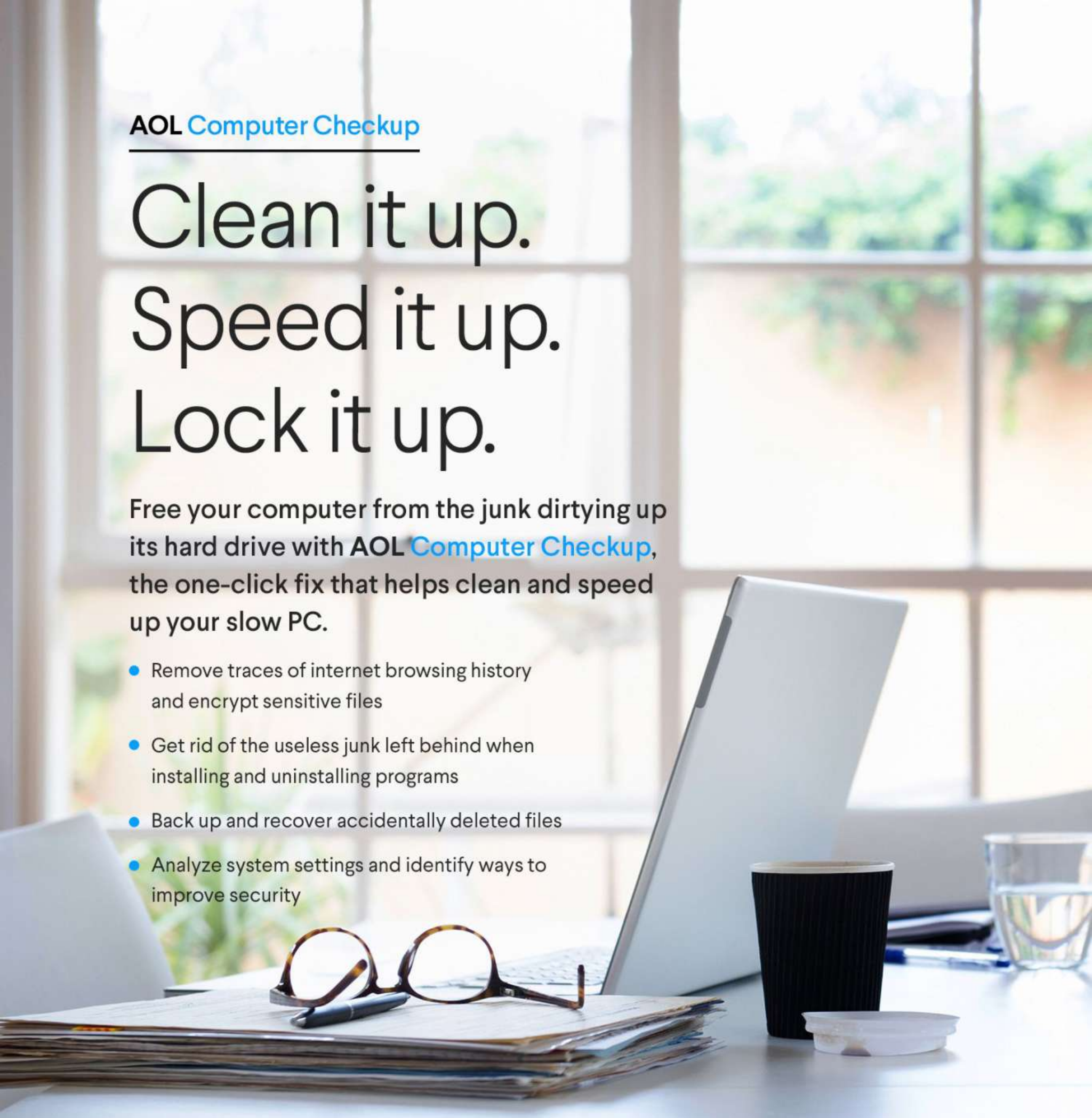
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APPLE NAMES EX-BOEING CFO TO BOARD, DIVERSIFYING ITS RANKS



Apple has filled a void on its board of directors with James Bell, the former chief financial officer for aircraft maker Boeing Co.

Bell becomes the only African American on Apple's board, helping the iPhone and iPad maker diversify its corporate hierarchy at a time when major technology companies are under fire for not having enough women and minorities in leadership roles and in their overall workforce.

Apple Inc. already has two women on what is now an eight-director board. Two of Apple's top executives, Lisa Jackson and Denise Young-Smith, are also African Americans.

Image: Paul Morigi



Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, who has spearheaded the push for greater diversity in Silicon Valley, applauded Apple CEO Tim Cook for bringing Bell on to the board of the Cupertino, California, company.

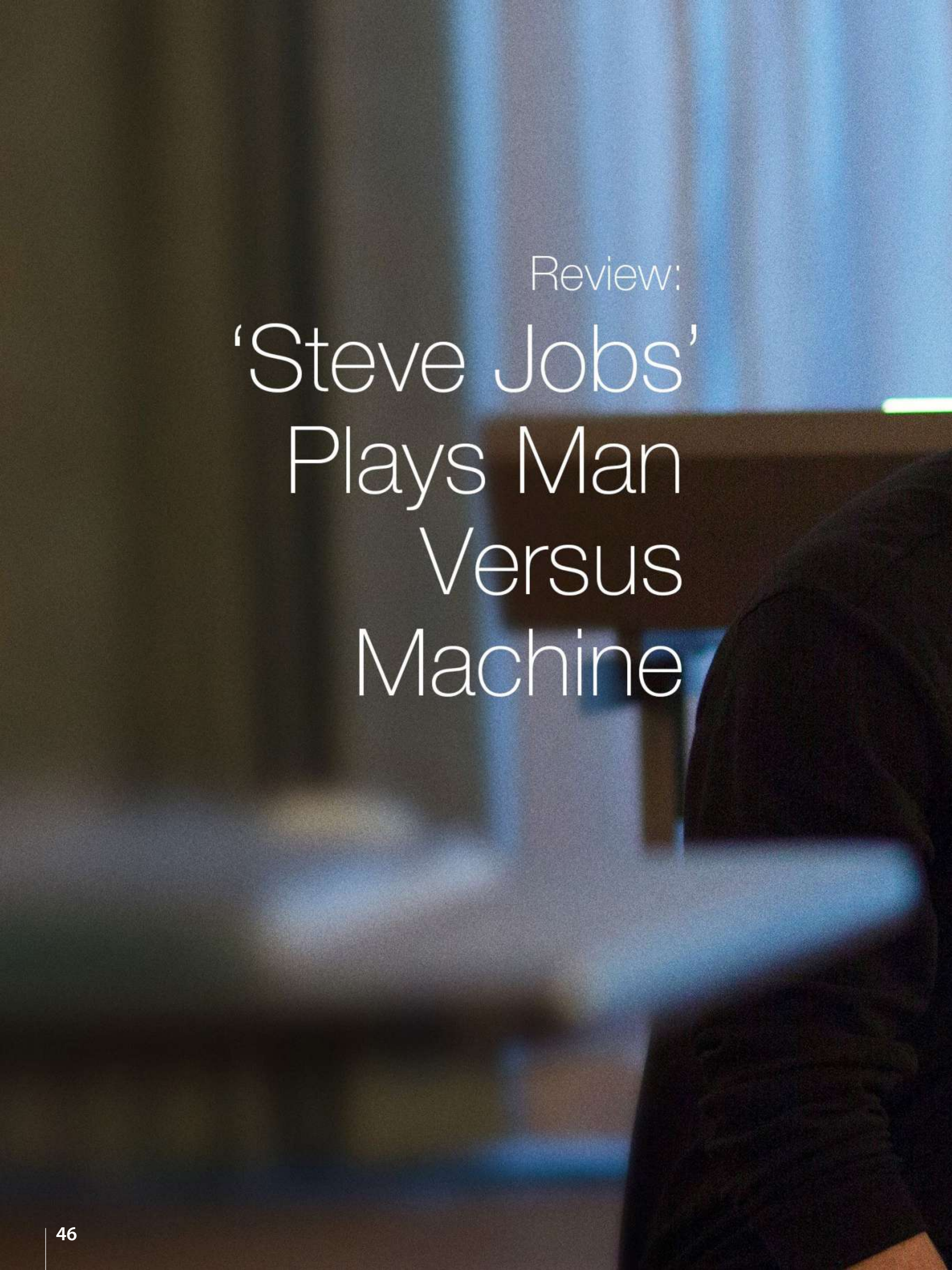
"We are delighted but not surprised," Jackson said. "Tim Cook has made a wise choice. James Bell is eminently qualified."

Besides serving as Boeing's CFO during his 38-year career at the company, Bell also was interim CEO in 2005. He fills a vacancy created on Apple's board when J. Crew Group CEO Millard "Mickey" Drexler relinquished his spot earlier this year.

Bell also sits on the boards of JP Morgan Chase, Dow Chemical and another technology company, CDW.







Review: ‘Steve Jobs’ Plays Man Versus Machine



When is someone going to open a window in Aaron Sorkin's Steve Jobs Alas, wrong operating system.

Sorkin has dispensed with the traditional format of the biopic, instead framing the life of the Apple co-founder and turtle-necked tech deity in three backstage dramas ahead of major product launches the Macintosh in 1984, NeXT in 1988 and the iMac in 1998. In the behind-the-scenes swirl, Jobs (Michael Fassbender) is visited each time by ghosts of products past Apple engineer Steve Wozniak (Seth Rogen), Apple CEO John Sculley (Jeff Daniels), and Jobs' daughter, Lisa (played by three actresses), whose paternity Jobs initially disputes.

It's a scheme of three-act purity, as tightly compacted as the circuitry of an iPod, and one that few besides Sorkin would dare to attempt.

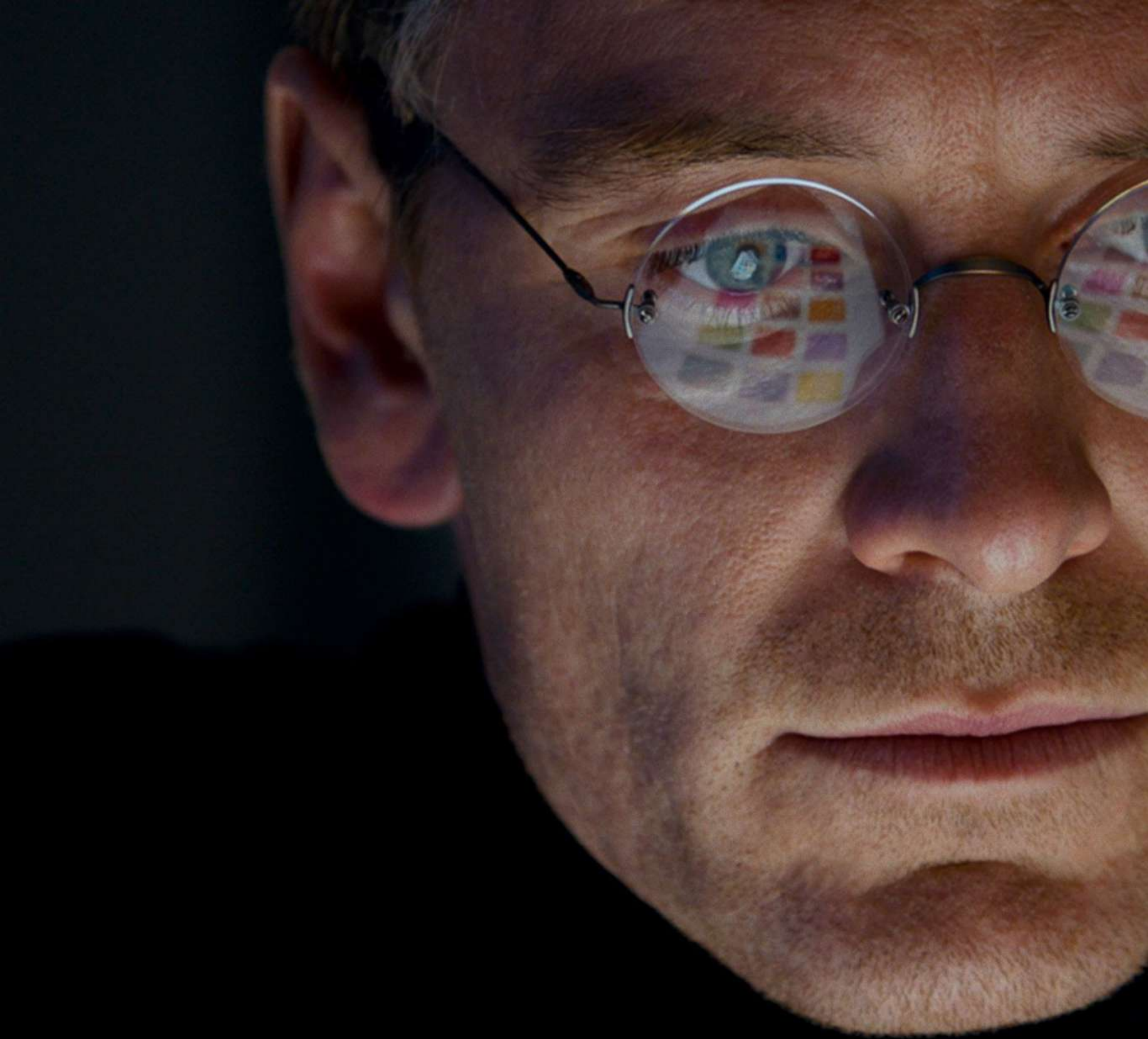
Though the script is adapted from Walter Isaacson's book, it feels more like a play that director Danny Boyle has transferred to the screen. The stage must be the true home of Steve Jobs; no one steps outside until a pivotal moment late in the film.

Like the tightly controlled aesthetics of Jobs, himself, the movie is a closed system. Even in the first scenes, Jobs is trying to have the Exit signs covered for the show. Tell the fire marshals, he says, We're in here changing the world.

Cloistered inside its claustrophobic casing, the movie hums with the high processing capacity of Sorkin's dialogue. In dressing rooms and the bowels of theaters, Jobs, flanked by his right-hand woman Joanna Hoffman (an excellent Kate Winslet), is the egomaniacal mind amid the media storm of his making.









He's in virtually perpetual argument strong-arming his engineers to get the first Mac to say Hello in his presentation; lamenting a Time magazine cover that dared to make the computer, not him, man of the year; sneering at PC hobbyists who resist the end-to-end control he demands for the Mac.

What does Steve Jobs do That's the question Wozniak (the arguably more important inventor and computer programmer), puts to him, and the one the film, itself, is an answer to. Jobs is the big-picture visionary, the bullheaded narcissist and, above all, the knowing conductor of talent and ideas. It's not a hard metaphor to grasp by the way Sorkin, the master of multitasking, juggles Jobs in an asteroid storm of turmoil, including, oh yes, one scene set in an orchestra pit.



Every interaction bears the tension of tolerance How much do we accept from a man of some genius It's not much fun being around a guy who compares himself to Julius Caesar and sees assassins all around. How to reconcile someone who can refuse to pay for his daughter's college tuition, but who can, like magic, put a thousand songs in her pocket

He's as puny as he is mighty, a flawed man who made perfect machines.









Steve Jobs hangs heavily, melodramatically, on his relationship with Lisa. But as fraught as life is backstage, the thundering, foot-stopping audiences lurk outside.

Why has Sorkin, an acknowledged technology neophyte who also penned The Social Network, become the go-to for some of the greatest tech minds of our time Perhaps because his rat-tat-tat exchanges gives us some sense of the computing power of elite minds, just as his morality tales render them in the binary codes of good and bad rather than ones and zeroes.

Boyle, whose greatest talent is in his slick manipulation of time (127 Hours, "28 Days Later...), is in firm control of the screenplay's high-velocity rhythm. And he does his best to bring a visual component to the stagy screenplay, most notably filming each act different first grainy 16mm, then 35mm and finally in the hard reality of high-definition digital.

The adventurous Boyle feels a little hemmed in here, as does the naturally mischievous Fassbender. But Fassbender captures the thin-skinned sensitivity and detailed obsessiveness of Jobs. In his hands, Sorkin's dialogue crackles.

The film often does too the Full Sorkin Treatment has electrified a well-trod subject. But it also smothers it in artifice. In Steve Jobs, Sorkin does the conducting.

Steve Jobs, a Universal Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for language. Running time 122 minutes. Three stars out of four.

MPAA Definition of R Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

PROTESTERS BLOCK THAI WEBSITES OVER PLAN FOR SINGLE GATEWAY

Protesters have blocked access to several Thai government websites over a plan to route all Internet traffic though a single gateway, which would make it easier for the military junta to monitor and censor communications.

Critics compare the plan to China's "Great Firewall" and systems in other countries such as Iran where the flow of information is tightly controlled.

Government officials have given different explanations for the plan, including that it would save money and stop young people from accessing inappropriate sites, and have said in response to criticism that it is still under study.

Critics charge it is designed to spy on and stifle political opposition and would make Thailand's international Internet access more fragile by forcing it through a single choke point.

Information and Communication Technology Minister Uttama Savanayana, a major proponent of the plan, has suggested that having a sole gateway under the control of state-owned telecommunication companies CAT Telecom and TOT would make service more efficient than the present system, which also includes eight private-sector gateway operators. Skeptics point to the poor records of the two state companies in providing fixed-line and mobile telephone service.

The websites of the Information and Communication Technology Ministry and other agencies were temporarily knocked out Wednesday and Thursday after activists accessed them repeatedly, overwhelming their servers, in what is generally called a distributed denial of service attack. Those hit included the

main government e-portal, the Internal Security Operations Command, the Royal Thai Army and the defense, interior, and finance ministries.

Uttama said traffic to his ministry's website on Wednesday was 16 times what it normally was, after an online appeal by activists to incapacitate it. He preferred not to call it an attack, saying the action "could be a symbolic action from groups of people who are concerned about the single gateway."

The plan for a single gateway was quietly approved at a Sept. 1 Cabinet meeting and only became public knowledge when a sharp-eyed Internet user spotted it on an obscure corner of a government website. An outcry mounted quickly among businesses concerned about speedy, stable communications, as well as ordinary users concerned about their privacy. An online

petition to “Go against Thai Gov’t to use a Single Internet Gateway” has been launched.

“We haven’t proceeded at all on this matter,” said Uttama, who has been forced to defend the scheme. “At this stage we are still discussing and studying all possibilities. I would like to assure you there will be no attempt to limit your freedom in using the Internet.”

Plans for a single gateway first surfaced after the army overthrew an elected government in May last year, but apparently without any follow-through. The military has said that one of its priorities is defending the institution of the monarchy, and has prosecuted social media users accused of insulting the royal family. It also has summoned people who have criticized the junta on social media and held them for several days of confinement and questioning known as “attitude adjustment.”





HERE'S WHY AMERICANS ARE GETTING NEW CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS

The battle against credit card fraud is inching forward.

As of Thursday, the liability for fraud committed using traditional MasterCard and Visa magnetic-stripe credit and debit cards will shift from banks to stores. The move is part of a drive by the banks and payment companies to get people to use the new, more secure cards embedded with computer chips.

Roughly half of all global credit card fraud occurs in the U.S. even though the country makes up only about a quarter of all credit card transactions, according to a report by Barclays earlier this month.

In part, that's because a 50-year-old technology that relies on a magnetic stripe at the back of the card, has lingered in the U.S. despite being replaced in most of the world. The weakness with this technology is that cards can be easily copied by thieves, leaving people vulnerable to fraud.

But the switch over has been slow.

While Thursday was originally targeted as the deadline to get most Americans using the new chip cards, the vast majority of transactions are still being made using the magnetic stripe.

Visa, the nation's largest payment network, said it had roughly $11 billion in U.S. chip card transactions for the quarter ending Sept. 30. In comparison, Visa had $631 billion in total transaction volume in the U.S. in the same quarter last year.

Most large retailers have replaced their equipment, but thousands of small businesses have not and there are still hundreds of millions of credit and debit cards that need to be replaced.

Here's what's going on with the new cards, and how this switch could affect you at the checkout counter:

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THESE CARDS?

The biggest difference between the old card and the new ones is the metal chip embedded on the front, which means your personal data is much safer. The chip assigns a unique code to every transaction made. That means that if a thief acquired that code, it couldn't be used to make another purchase. Chip cards are much harder, if not impossible, to duplicate. That makes them more secure than magnetic cards, which are easily copied.

But the magnetic strip won't be disappearing. All chip cards will also come with a strip in case chip readers aren't available. However, if a store does accept chip cards for purchases, you should use that option every time because it's more secure.





HOW DO I USE THE CHIP CARD?

Instead of swiping your card at the checkout, you'll insert it into a machine with a slot similar to that at an ATM. Keep your card in the slot until the machine tells you to remove it. Unlike magnetic strip cards, chip cards need to be left in the reader for a few seconds to work.

I'VE HAD MY NEW CARD FOR MONTHS. WHY IS EVERYONE TALKING ABOUT THIS NOW?

Visa and MasterCard set an Oct. 1 deadline for merchants to switch their card machines from accepting magnetic stripe to accepting both chip and traditional magnetic stripe-only cards. Retailers can opt to keep using their old magnetic stripe-reading equipment, but they will now be liable for any fraud that occurs at their stores. Banks, who used to cover the costs of fraud, are off the hook. This is known as the liability switch.

WHEN WILL I GET ONE?

The national banks are currently in the process of issuing chip-based debit cards. Most of the regional and smaller banks will start rolling out these cards to their customers later this year. But the process could take years and some smaller banks may not replace a customers' credit card until the current card expires.


5100
5100


300
VALID
MONTH

WHO'S BEHIND THE CHANGE?

The change is being driven by the banks and payment processing companies - Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Banks have wanted a more secure form of payment because they have generally been on the hook for any fraud committed using their cards. Originally the banks relied on their own software and data from the payment networks to catch fraud at the point of sale in the U.S., but an increase in fraudulent transactions made it clear more was needed. The American Bankers Association estimated that bank account fraud cost the industry $1.74 trillion in 2012, the most recent year for which data is available.



WHERE AND WHEN CAN I USE MY NEW CHIP CARD?

You can use it now, although many stores have been slow to upgrade their equipment, despite the Oct. 1 deadline. That's because it's a significant expense to replace equipment and retrain employees. The Payment Security Taskforce, a group that represents the banks, payment companies, and some large retailers, estimates that about 40 percent of all card readers will accept chip cards by the end of the year.

WHAT ELSE IS CHANGING?

The type of card being rolled out in the U.S. will still need a signature when you pay for something. Eventually the technology that what will be used in the U.S. will be the same as that which is used in the rest of the world, known as "chip and PIN." It would work in a similar way to your ATM card. You would insert your card and enter a four-digit password to approve the transaction. Security experts believe this is a very safe way to pay for things. Signing for a credit card purchase provides almost no security since signatures are rarely checked.


422

LADY GAGA SAID SHE FELT ALIVE AND 'LIKE HERSELF' ON 'AHS'

Appearing in the new season of "American Horror Story" was a life boost for Lady Gaga.

The singer raved about her experience on "American Horror Story: Hotel" as she arrived for the star-studded premiere of the FX show on Saturday night.

With fiancé Taylor Kinney as her date, Lady Gaga said the experience of playing Countess Elizabeth, who runs the Hotel Cortez, made her feel alive.

"It's been so fun," said Lady Gaga, who arrived fashionably late in a red gown with a thigh-high slit.

"Everybody on this cast has been really open and available to me in a very honest way, so I'm able to be myself in a way I feel like I haven't been in a really long time, so they are just making me feel so alive," Lady Gaga said.

She called the fifth installment of the Emmy-winning show a masterpiece and praised executive producer and co-creator Ryan Murphy.

"I'm just really happy to be a part of it. I like being a part of someone else's vision it's really exhilarating," she added.

Lady Gaga endeared herself to the cast. Matt Bomer said some of her fellow actors called her by her given first name (her real name is Stefani Germanotta).

"it's sort of takes the mythos and all the preconceptions of Lady Gaga out of the equation so we can just relate to each other like human beings and actors in a scene," explained Bomer. "She's so approachable that she totally just was there for us ... at by the time the cameras were rolling and we were in a scene together, we weren't thinking about the fact that you were doing a scene with Lady Gaga."

Denis O'Hare spilled juicy details about the super exclusive bash Lady Gaga threw for the cast, which includes regulars like Angela Bassett, Sarah Paulson, and Kathy Bates.

"She had a pool; she dyed it blood red," said O'Hare. "She had bathing suits for all of us. I jumped right in. I wore a woman's bathing suit at one point. She had a massive amount of food for us."

Being Lady Gaga, there was also some sauciness involved.

"She had a half-naked bartender for some of us it was an incredible party and it was just us, so it was comfortable and we all got to know each other," he said. "She got a birthday cake for Angela. I can't describe it. It was an obscene birthday cake, it was shocking actually."

Supermodel Naomi Campbell is among the new additions to the show. Campbell, who also appears on "Empire," said the role came about when Ryan offered her a role over dinner. Up until Saturday night the cast wasn't able to discuss anything about the new season. The British supermodel said keeping hush hush was really easy for her.

"It's never been my thing of speaking before something happens," she said. "I kind of find that bad luck."

The show premieres Wednesday night.

Online:
http://www.fxnetworks.com/shows/american-horror-story/episodes

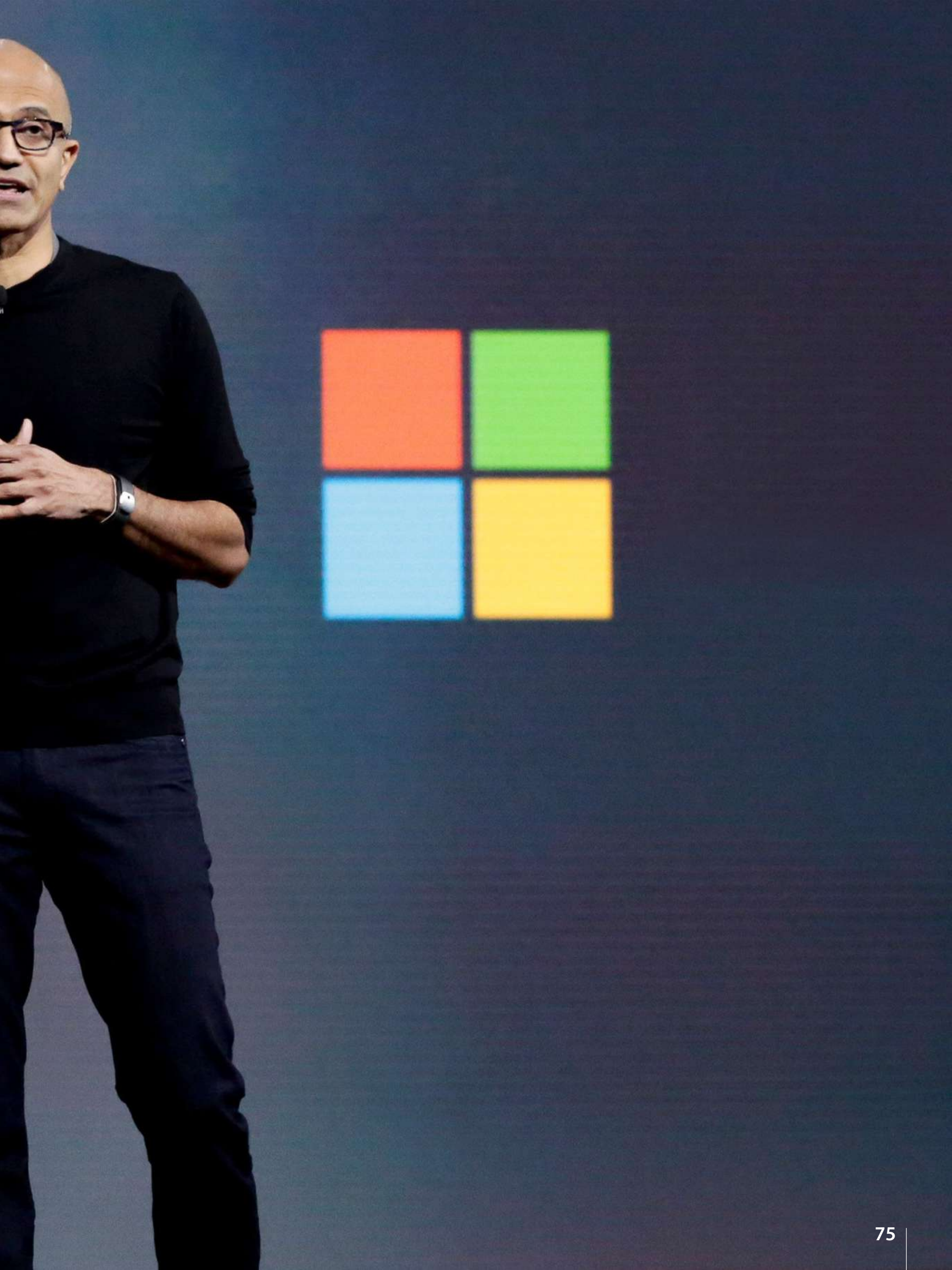
COMPETITION FOR MICROSOFT LINEUP, WHICH TARGETS HIGH END

The success of Microsoft's fall lineup of devices will ride on the company's ability to convince people who got free Windows 10 software upgrades this summer to spring for new devices - specifically, Windows devices.

Microsoft Corp. on Tuesday unveiled a new laptop, a tablet, three phones and a fitness tracker meant to keep people tied to its array of online services. Many of the products have impressive hardware features, but they face heavy competition from Apple and Android products.

With the new lineup, Microsoft appears to be targeting professionals, people more likely to have Windows already in their office computers. The Redmond, Washington, company is hoping to build on a successful summer launch of Windows 10, which Microsoft says is now in more than 110 million devices.









It's not about the mass market. It's about the high end of the market, said Carolina Milanesi, who heads U.S. operations for the Kantar Worldpanel ComTech research group.

In closing a nearly two-hour event in New York, CEO Satya Nadella said the latest devices are part of Microsoft's vision to move people from needing Windows to choosing Windows to loving Windows.

Microsoft for the first time appears capable of achieving that, Milanesi said.

The surprise announcement was a new Surface Book laptop, which comes after Microsoft has been touting its Surface tablets as replacements for laptops. Microsoft says the Surface Book is for scientists, engineers and gamers who need more performance than a tablet. The screen is detachable and becomes a tablet with a clipboard feel while on the go. But unlike Surface tablets with keyboard covers attached magnetically, the Surface Book's keyboard is core to the device.

The 13.5-inch laptop starts at $1,499, compared with $899 for the new, 12.3-inch Surface Pro 4 tablet. The Pro 4's keyboard cover costs an extra $130. Both Surface devices will come out Oct. 26.

Although the new devices are more expensive than Apple's entry-level MacBook Air laptop and iPad tablet, Microsoft is targeting those who need more horsepower. Apple Inc. is starting to go after those customers, too, with its upcoming iPad Pro, which starts at $799, plus $169 for a physical keyboard. Apple already has a MacBook Pro laptop line, starting at $1,299, for power users.

Surface sales have picked up after a rocky start.



Just two years ago, Microsoft wrote down $900 million for losses related to its first-generation Surface RT tablet. In the most recent quarter, revenue from tablets and accessories more than doubled from a year ago to $888 million. Although the Surface still represents a small part of Microsoft's overall business, it provides a window into the company's various ad-supported services, including search and maps.

Microsoft also sought to use Tuesday's event to revive its struggling phone business. Over the summer, the company wrote down $8.4 billion for the value of Nokia's v business, which it bought just a year earlier. It also announced 7,800 job cuts in the phone business. The new Lumia 950 and 950 XL are the first high-end Windows phones from Microsoft since February 2014, which was around the time Nadella became CEO and before Microsoft completed its purchase of Nokia.

Microsoft's Windows operating system has a tiny market share compared with Google Inc.'s Android and Apple's iOS for iPhones. That means developers tend to focus on making their apps for Android and iPhones first and might not get to Windows at all.

Instead of a me, too phone system, Microsoft is touting compatibility with Windows desktops, laptops and tablets. With an optional dock, you can attach a regular monitor, keyboard and mouse and work with apps on the phone just like you would on a Windows 10 desktop. That means you can leave your tablet or laptop at work and have a full desktop experience at home with just the phone. Microsoft is hoping to lure those who use Windows desktops and laptops regularly.


11:45



Similar to the Surface, the new phones are aimed at power users who need the flexibility to perform tasks on larger screens, along with compatibility with Windows apps they might use at work.

The new phones start at $549 and will be available in November. Microsoft hasn't announced the dock's price. Microsoft also introduced a budget model, the Lumia 550, for $139. These prices do not require two-year service contracts.

Microsoft has done a great job to at least get Microsoft into the conversation among consumers, (but) this is going to be a long road for Nadella as Microsoft plays major catch-up, said Daniel H. Ives, an analyst at FBR.

The new Microsoft Band fitness tracker, meanwhile, will now track elevation and work with the company's Cortana virtual assistant. It will be available for $249 starting Oct. 30.

Microsoft also teased Xbox One games and console bundles and demonstrated its upcoming HoloLens virtual-reality device by showing a mixed reality game that combines animation with real-world objects. Attacking robots know how to break through walls and go around furniture. Developers will be able to buy a prototype early next year for $3,000.

The HoloLens represents an opportunity to get a head start in a nascent market. Rival systems are just starting to come out.

The HoloLens represents a change from the status quo as Nadella goes after this land grab, multi-billion dollar market opportunity, Ives said.

iTunes

Review



Trailer

Movies & TV Shows

Rotten **Tomatoes**

CERTIFIED FRESH 71%



iTunes **Preview**

by Colin Trevorrow
Genre: Action & Adventure
Released: 2015
Price: $19.99

★★★★★
2217 Ratings

Jurassic World

Just off the Costa Rican coast, the luxury resort of Jurassic World on the island of Isla Nublar attracts tourists to see the resident genetically engineered dinosaurs. However, the intelligent but threatening Indominus rex then escapes and the other dinosaurs run amok, leading ex-military man Owen Grady (Chris Pratt) to come to the rescue of the park's staff and tourists.

FIVE FACTS:

1. This is the fourth film in the Jurassic Park series.

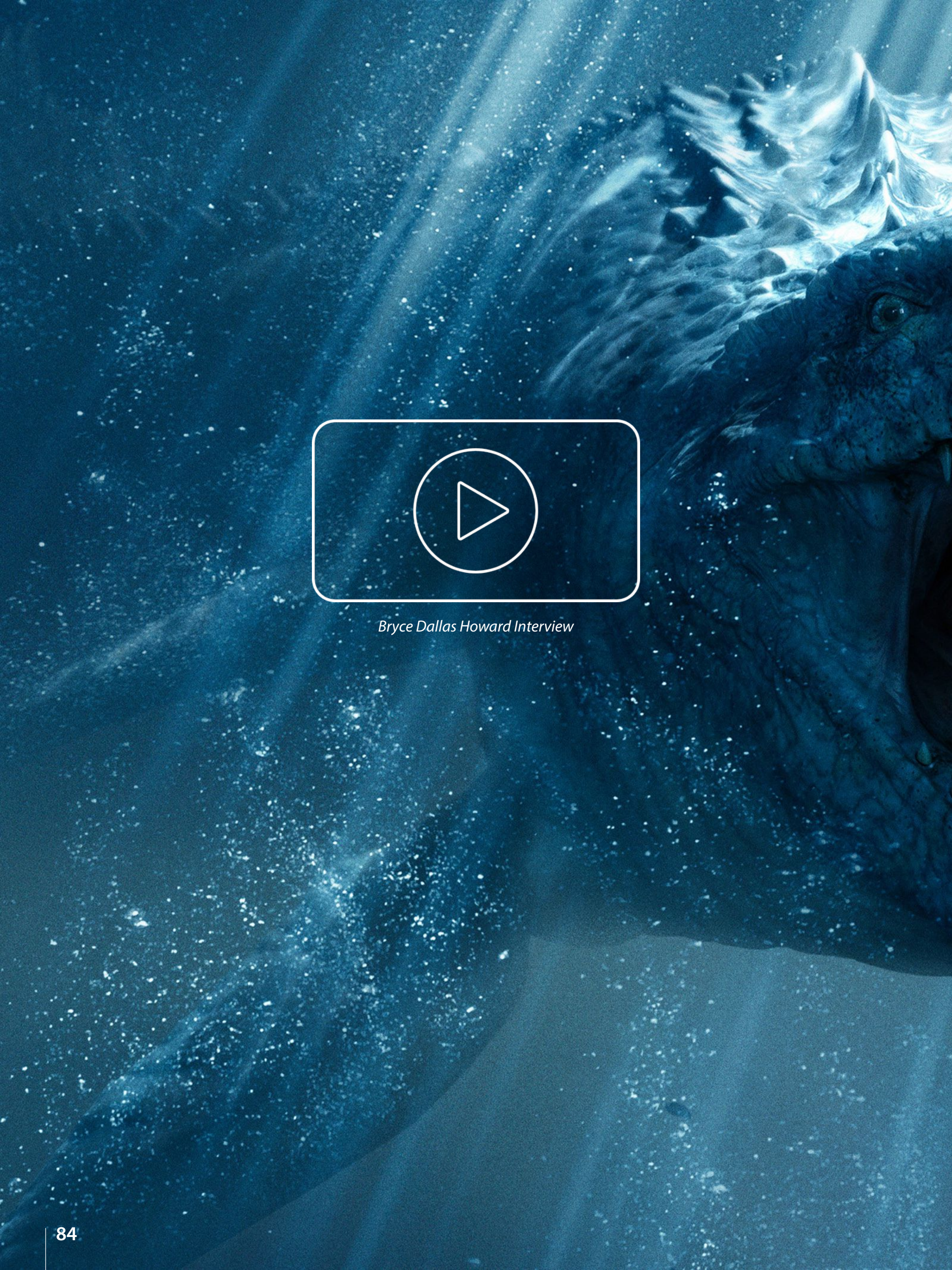
2. Jurassic World is set 22 years after the events of the first film, but also takes place on the same fictional island of Isla Nublar.

3. Accompanying the movie's release was the tie-in iOS game Jurassic World: The Game, which **can be downloaded from the App Store**.

4. As of October 1, 2015, the movie **has grossed a global total of about $1.663 billion**.

5. Unsurprisingly, a sequel is planned. It is **scheduled for theatrical release on June 22, 2018**.

See more in iTunes



Bryce Dallas Howard Interview



Naomi and Ely's No Kiss List

Naomi (Victoria Justice) and Ely (Pierson Fode) have enjoyed a close and lifelong friendship - but, despite Ely's homosexuality, Naomi longs for a less platonic relationship. This leads to trouble and a large fall-out when the two suddenly end up falling in love with the same man, Gabriel (Matthew Daddario). Can Naomi and Ely recover from their spat and re-establish their previous happy friendship?

FIVE FACTS:

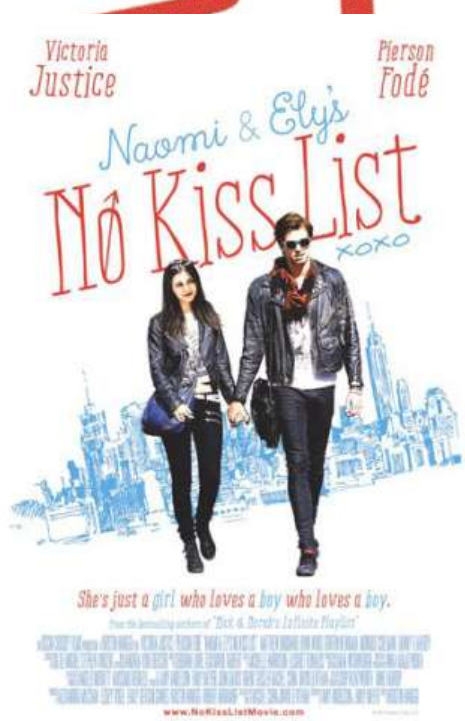
1. This movie is **based on the David Levithan and Rachel Cohn novel of the same name**.

2. The world premiere **took place at Outfest Los Angeles in July 2015**.

3. The promotional tagline is: **"She's just a girl who loves a boy who loves a boy."**

4. In the film, the drummer in Gabriel's band **wears a t-shirt reading "Where's Fluffy" - the name of a fictional band in Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist**, another film adaptation of a David Levithan and Rachel Cohn book.

5. Victoria Justice has a **voice-acting role in the upcoming animated comedy film Get Squirrely**.



iTunes **Preview**

by Kristin Hanggi
Genre: Comedy
Released: 2015
Price: $9.99

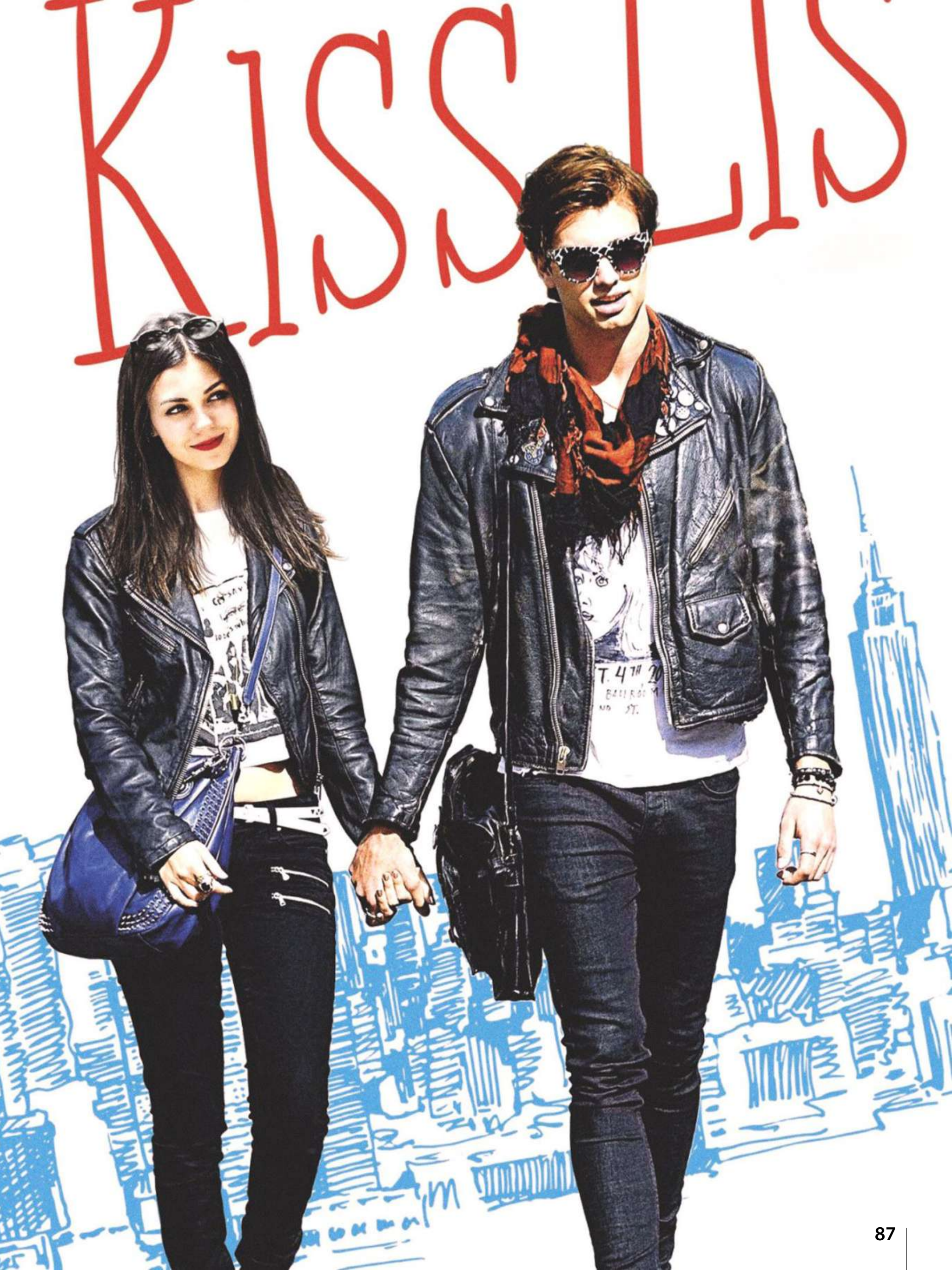
★★★★★
126 Ratings

Trailer

Rotten **Tomatoes**

CERTIFIED FRESH

No rating yet


KISS LIS

PIERSON FODÉ

VICTORIA JUSTICE

BYE-EEEEE

Naomi + Ely's NO KISS LIST

Victoria Justice and
Pierson Fode Interview

iTunes

Review

No Sleep

JANET

UNBREAKABLE

Music



iTunes Preview

Genre: Pop
Released: Oct 02, 2015
19 Songs
Price: $12.99

★★★★½
1538 Ratings

Unbreakable

Janet Jackson

What has Janet Jackson done for us lately? Unbreakable is the pop legend's first studio album in seven years, and the first released through her independent label Rhythm Nation Records. Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis are on the production team while the guest artists include rappers Missy Elliott and J. Cole, who features on the previously released lead single, "No Sleep".

FIVE FACTS:

1. Jackson's previous studio album was Discipline in 2008.

2. According to Jackson's website, the new album voices **"Janet's views on where we stand today as individuals and as the inter-related elements of a planet."**

3. Jackson herself has frequented used the hashtag #ConversationsInACafe on social media to promote the album.

4. The album has been critically well-received; the cultural reviews aggregator website Metacritic has rated it **an average of 75 out of 100, indicating "generally favorable reviews".**

5. In **his review in The Wall Street Journal, Jim Fusilli** remarks that Jackson, Jam and Lewis here "explore a satisfying range of musical styles plucked from across the span of pop history".

See more in iTunes





Unbreakable

Songs from the Martian (Music From the Motion Picture)

Various Artists



iTunes **Preview**

Genre: Soundtrack
Released: Sep 30, 2015
9 Songs
Price: $7.99

★★★★★
10 Ratings

The critically revered sci-fi movie The Martian, starring Matt Damon under the direction of Ridley Scott, has just been released into theaters - and this album brings together various songs that appear in the film. Familiar favorites from big names like ABBA, David Bowie and Donna Summer are represented, and there's also a score suite from the film's composer Harry Gregson-Williams.

FIVE FACTS:

1. The movie tells the story of an astronaut who has to fight to survive on the planet Mars after he is left behind, having been wrongly presumed dead.

2. Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig and Jeff Daniels also play key roles in the film.

3. The classic songs that appear on this album include ABBA's "Waterloo", David Bowie's "Starman" and, very aptly, Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive".

4. ABBA recently turned down a request for the first vinyl of "Waterloo" to be featured in an exhibition about the Battle of Waterloo, a spokeswoman **insisting that the song is not actually about the battle**.

5. The version of "Starman" on this album is a remastered version from 2012.

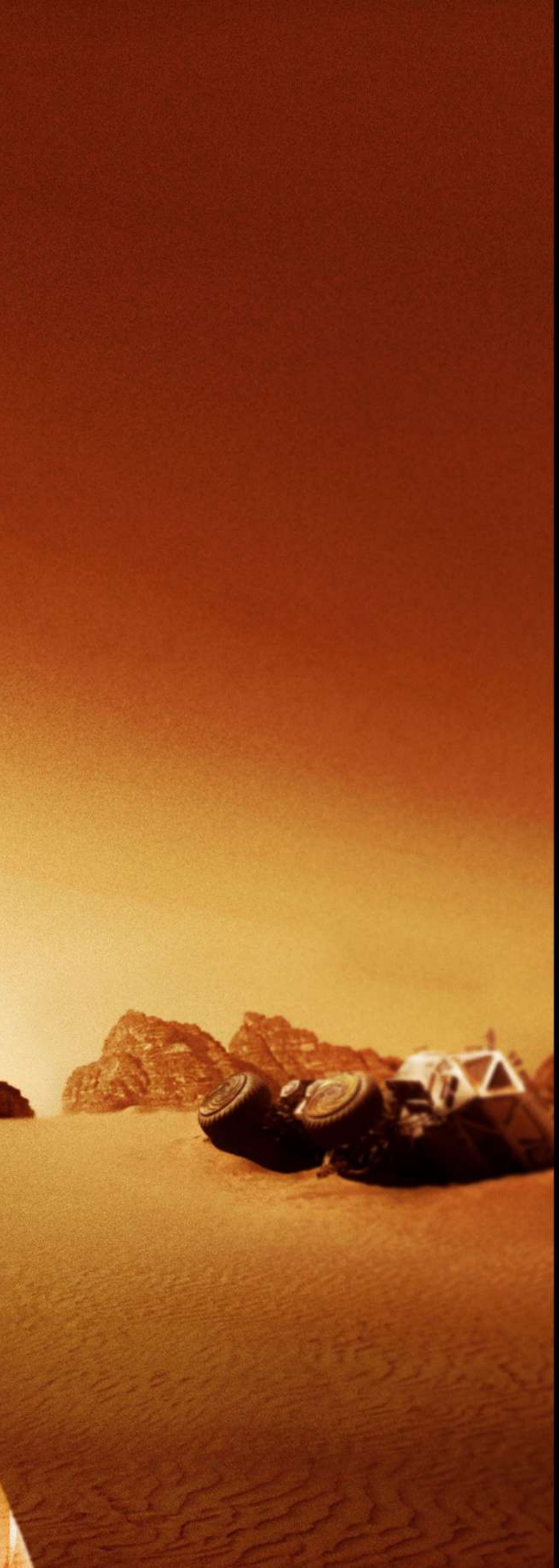


The Martian Score Suite





Waterloo



SCIENCE SELLS: 'THE MARTIAN' LANDS WITH $55 MILLION DEBUT

Opening just days after NASA announced findings showing water on Mars, "The Martian" soaked up moviegoers at the box office.

Ridley Scott's 3-D space epic touched down in theaters with a robust $55 million over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. The results again proved moviegoers' abiding thirst for space adventures, particularly ones that rely more on mathematics than monsters.

The 20th Century Fox release, starring Matt Damon as an astronaut left for dead on Mars, exceeded expectations to nearly rank as the top October debut ever. The estimated North American opening of "The Martian" surpassed that of Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar" ($47.5 million) and virtually equaled the debut of Alfonso Cuaron's "Gravity" ($55.8 million).

It's Scott's second best opening behind 2001's "Hannibal" and Damon's second best after 2007's "Bourne Ultimatum."

Made for $108 million, "The Martian" received a publicity boost earlier in the week when NASA announced it had found evidence of water on the surface of Mars - a cosmically fortuitous tie-in for a movie that celebrates NASA ingenuity. Adapted from the Andy Weir novel, "The Martian" - more "science-fact" than science fiction - relishes pragmatic scientific problem solving and NASA's spirit of exploration.

"What separates this movie - it has the backdrop of science - but all of the science is presented in a way that's very approachable for all," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution for Fox.

Aronson noted that the shift in release date from Nov. 25 to early October gave the film a more open path at the box office, where it could play well through the month. The film added $45.2 million internationally.

"Solid performances by recent space-related films like 'Interstellar' and 'Gravity' show that 'geeking-out' on all things outer space and science related in the movie theater is not only a popular pastime, but has now made science actually 'cool,'" said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office firm Rentrak.

Yet October is proving especially busy with well-reviewed studio releases seeking broad audiences. Another acclaimed 3-D spectacle, Sony's "The Walk," took a back seat to "The Martian." Ahead of a wider opening next week, Robert Zemeckis' dramatization of Philippe Petit's World Trade Center stunt took in just $1.6 million on 448 Imax screens.





"You need word of mouth for this type of film and that's what this weekend was all about," said Sony distribution head Rory Bruer, who granted it's a "crowded field." The film will look to parlay strong reviews out of its New York Film Festival debut and buzz from its vertigo-inducing 3-D next week.

Last week's box-office champ, "Hotel Transylvania 2," slid to second with an estimated $33 million. Sony's animated sequel has made $90.5 million in two weeks.

Denis Villeneuve's drug war thriller "Sicario," starring Emily Blunt, shot up to third with $12.1 million for the acclaimed Lionsgate release.

The gay-rights drama "Freeheld," starring Julianne Moore and Ellen Page, opened in limited release with a $40,000-per-screen average in New York and Los Angeles.





2

4





Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday:

1. *"The Martian," $55 million ($45.2 million international).*

2. *"Hotel Transylvania 2," $33 million ($20.4 million international).*

3. *"Sicario," $12.1 million ($3.3 million international).*

4. *"The Intern," $11.6 million ($15.7 million international).*

5. *"Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials," $7.7 million ($13.7 million international).*

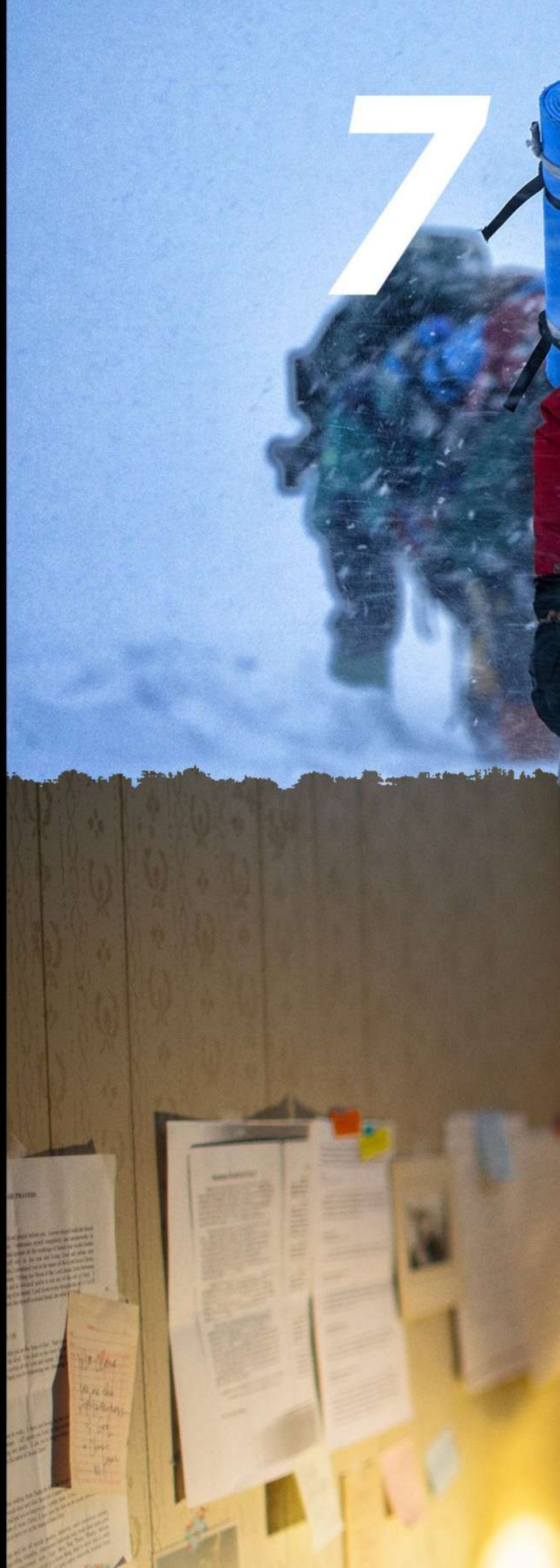
6. *"Black Mass," $5.9 million.*

7. *"Everest," $5.5 million ($16.4 million international).*

8. *"The Visit," $3.9 million ($3.3 million international).*

9. *"War Room," $2.8 million.*

10. *"The Perfect Guy," $2.4 million.*



9

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Rentrak:

1. *"The Martian," $45.2 million.*

2. *"Lost in Hong Kong," $41 million.*

3. *"Chronicles of the Ghostly Tribe," $34 million.*

4. *"Goodbye Mr. Loser," $26 million.*

5. *"Hotel Transylvania 2," $20.4 million.*





3

4

6. *“Everest,” $16.4 million.*

7. *“The Intern,” $15.7 million.*

8. *“Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials,” $13.7 million.*

9. *“Inside Out,” $12.6 million.*

10. *“Saving Mr. Wu,” $7 million.*







10





STATES COMPETING FOR DATA CENTERS EXTEND $1.5B IN TAX BREAKS

The former limestone mine seemed perfect for a large computer data center. The air was cool. The rock walls provided a defense against natural disasters. And the tunnels bored into a Kansas City hillside had access to abundant electricity and fiber-optic cables.

But the mine lacked something important: tax breaks. Without them, several companies chose instead to locate their data centers in neighboring Kansas. At least one major project opted for North Carolina.

“There were people who wouldn’t even come and look,” said Ora Reynolds, president and chief executive of Hunt Midwest Enterprises Inc., which has been marketing its SubTropolis caves. Financial incentives, she learned, were “absolutely crucial.”

Similar competitions for business are playing out across the country as states increasingly offer lucrative tax breaks to attract the data centers that function as the brains of the Internet. An Associated Press analysis of state revenue and

economic-development records shows that government officials extended nearly $1.5 billion in tax incentives to hundreds of data-center projects nationwide during the past decade.

The actual cost to taxpayers is probably much higher because some states refused to disclose the amount of taxes they waived, citing confidentiality laws. In many cases, cities and counties sweetened the incentives by forgiving millions more in local taxes.

The benefits are debatable. Although they cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build and equip, the centers employ relatively few workers. That means they produce little in the way of new income taxes but could provide a surge in property and sales taxes - if governments don't waive those taxes, which many do.

Some officials doubt the tax breaks are worth it because they typically benefit a single community while depriving the state budget of money that might otherwise help schools, lower the cost of college tuition or pay for roads and other infrastructure.

"Does it make sense to pick winners and losers for a massive statewide subsidy for, in effect, one county?" said Washington state Rep. Reuven Carlyle, who leads the House Finance Committee and voted against an extension of the data-center sales tax break.

Although invisible to most people, data centers are a part of everyday life. Every time consumers shop online, stream a movie or tap an app on their smartphones, they make use of a highly secured data center that stores and processes vast quantities of information in long rows of computer servers and hard drives.


HOT
COLD

Firms such as Apple, Amazon, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo often run their own data centers. Others function like landlords, renting space on their computer racks to financial institutions, health care companies and other businesses.

At least 23 states now have specially tailored incentives for data centers, most of which have been enacted or updated in the past five years, the AP review found. At least 16 others have used general economic-development programs to offer them incentives.

The subsidies appear likely to grow along with demand for data centers fueled by cloud computing and a reliance on outside firms to provide computer infrastructure for businesses.

“Historically, states have offered a lot of exemptions for manufacturing,” said Randy Hilger, a principal at the tax services firm Ryan LLC. “But as we become more and more of a service economy, you’re seeing states react with their exemptions.”

The SubTropolis facility finally got its first data center last year when LightEdge Solutions Inc. opened with the help of a projected $15.5 million in sales, income and property tax breaks. Now it’s looking to expand with the aid of a new Missouri law offering data centers a sales tax exemption on computers, equipment and utilities.

A state analysis projected that LightEdge could produce $24 in new gross domestic product for Missouri’s economy for every $1 of state incentives over a decade. But most of its incentives come from local governments, and officials at the city and county economic development entities said they had no cost-benefit analysis for the project.



It's hard to know whether the incentives ultimately will pay off. Since opening in April 2014, LightEdge has filled about three-fourths of its initial 22,000 square feet of space. At any given time, it has three or four people working there.

In Washington, a state sales tax break has encouraged a proliferation of data centers in the rural town of Quincy, which does not exempt them from property taxes. As result, local tax revenues have more than quadrupled over a decade, helping build a new library, justice center, animal shelter and other public infrastructure.

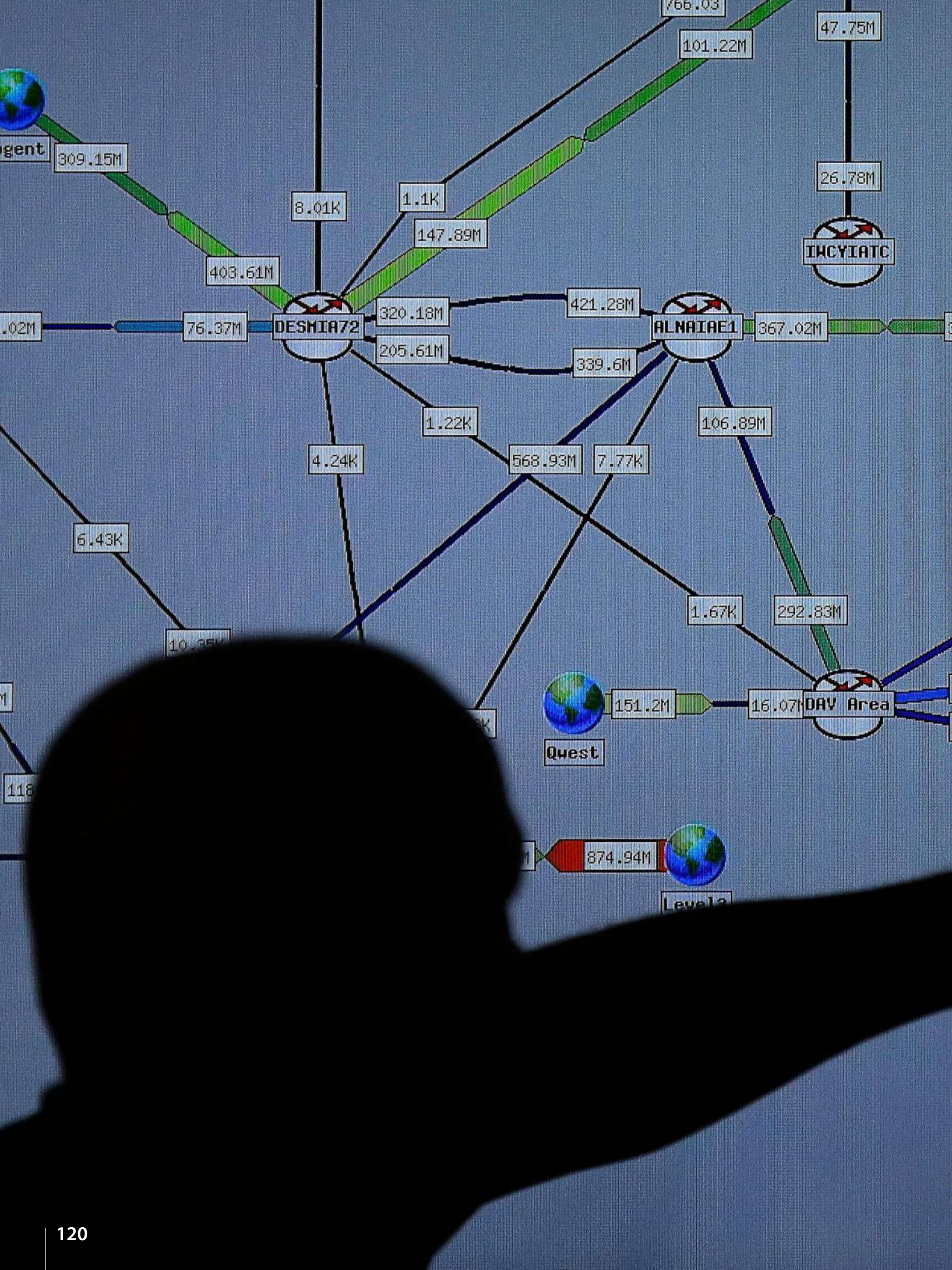
"It certainly is a positive financial impact," said Curt Morris, a commissioner for the Quincy Port District.

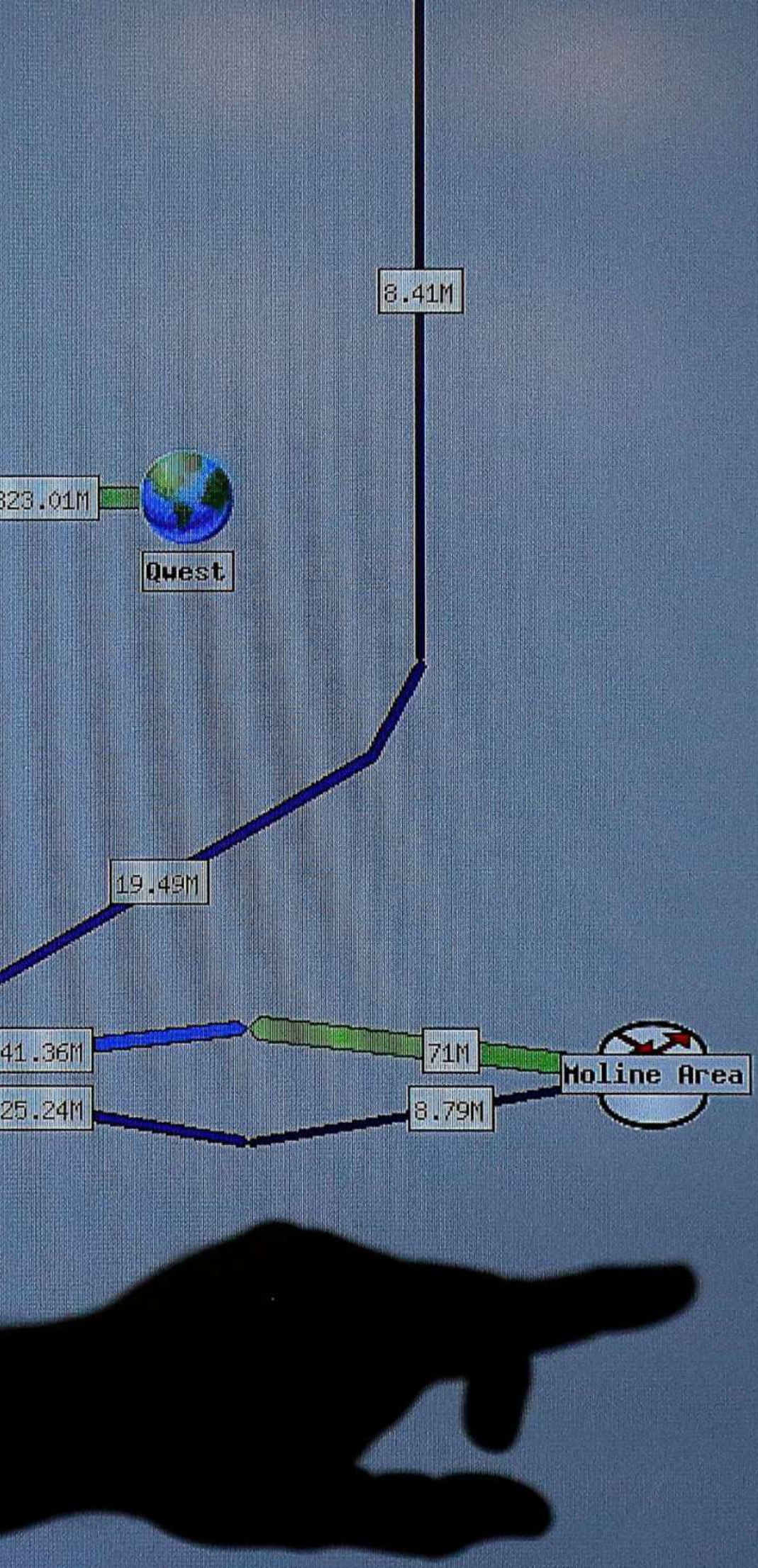
Not all data centers receive government subsidies. Many have been built without incentives near technology hubs such as California's Silicon Valley. But the spread of high-speed Internet connections across the country has cleared the way for them to be built almost anywhere that offers cheap, abundant electricity - or enough tax breaks to make it worthwhile. For example:

- Amazon subsidiary Vadata Inc. is investing about $1.1 billion to build three data centers in suburban Columbus, Ohio, lured partly by $81 million in state incentives and nearly $20 million of local incentives, including free land at one site.

- Alabama, which passed a law in 2012 offering special tax breaks to data centers, landed its first blockbuster recruit this summer: a $600 million Google data center to be built at the site of an old coal-fired power plant with the help of $81 million of incentives.




309.15M
403.61M
8.01K
1.1K
147.89M
101.22M
47.75M
26.78M
IWCYIATC
DESMIA72
76.37M
320.18M
205.61M
421.28M
339.6M
ALNAIAE1
367.02M
1.22K
4.24K
568.93M
7.77K
106.89M
6.43K
1.67K
292.83M
151.2M
16.07K
DAV Area
Quest
874.94M



- Nevada announced an even bigger deal, awarding an estimated $229 million of sales and property tax breaks for data center developer Switch to get started on $3 billion of expansions at sites in Las Vegas and Reno, one which the company claims will become the world's largest data center.

Switch's vice president of government and public affairs, Adam Kramer, calls the company's data centers "an economic magnet" that attracts other businesses. He points to a decision this summer by the online video game firm Machine Zone to invest $50 million and hire 78 employees in the Las Vegas area. In documents submitted to the state, Machine Zone cited two factors - Switch's data center and an estimated $3.8 million of incentives from Nevada.

But not every data center draws other high-tech firms to its side, and some local officials have mixed views on their merits.

In Oregon's rural Morrow County, for example, Vadata received a 90-plus percent property tax exemption last year, waiving an estimated $5.4 million in taxes, according to public records. That tax break could double this year as Vadata's newly expanded facilities are projected to be 97 percent tax-exempt.

"I don't believe it's fair," said Morrow County Assessor and Tax Collector Mike Gorman. "It's just kind of a loophole in the system that may allow them to continue on into perpetuity" without paying much tax.

EARTHQUAKES, ELECTIONS AND MORE DISSECTED AT NEW YORKER FEST

One New Yorker writer summed it up best: The New Yorker festival, said Kathryn Schulz, is the "nerd holiday of New York City."

Schulz was referring to the annual weekend of events that brings out fans of the magazine from all corners of the country, salivating to hear their favorite authors read fiction or their favorite actors discuss their latest film, theater and TV projects. In this 16th year, those notables have included Sigourney Weaver, Jesse Eisenberg, Jeffrey Tambor and Damian Lewis, not to mention music names like Billy Joel and Patti Smith. (Nearly 20,000 people attended this year, from every state except North Dakota, and from 36 countries - including Latvia, Macedonia and Kuwait.)

But the festival also touches on the more urgent questions of the day, and this year, that included the upcoming presidential election and the earthquake risk in the Pacific Northwest.

A panel on the fault line known as the Cascadia subduction zone, which runs from northern California through Oregon and Washington, was pretty much just as scary as the much-discussed July New Yorker article about it. It began with a compilation of photos and film clips from the most devastating earthquakes of the last century, ending with a few seconds from the humorously unrealistic movie "San Andreas." Schulz, who wrote the article and moderated the panel, quipped that the magazine's famously exacting fact-checkers should have paid better attention.

But the discussion immediately turned serious, with experts explaining how the risk in the subduction zone is more serious than the San Andreas fault, with the potential of an earthquake measuring 8.3 to 9.2 on the Richter scale. Even worse would be the resulting tsunami, and chances of survival in

the inundation zone, panelists agreed, were "very, very grim."

Carmen Merlo, of the Bureau of Emergency Management in Portland, Oregon, outlined how much preparedness work remained to be done, noting it would cost hundreds of billions of dollars to retrofit metropolitan Portland alone - and that none of the city's bridges were seismically fit.

At least, noted panelist Chris Goldfinger of Oregon State University, plenty of people in Portland own kayaks.

Schulz responded: "Tragically, you're not even joking."

At another panel, the only earthquakes considered were of a political nature. Specifically, panelists were discussing "The Hillary Question." While the email controversy clouding Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign was not a major topic of discussion, questions of gender and double standards were.

"When did it become about, 'Do I want to have dinner with this person?' asked author Roxane Gay, referring to the "likeability" question. "I don't want to have dinner with any of the candidates. I have friends."

One of the most passionate interchanges of the discussion, moderated by writer Jill Lepore, came when an audience member asked whether there was a sense among women "that Hillary is not quite one of the girls - one of us." Gay responded: "That's nonsense. That's jealousy. She was the first first lady to have a graduate degree, the first to have a career. We need to

look at these women not as 'not like us,' but as people we can aspire to be."

Clinton also came up in a conversation between Sigourney Weaver and New Yorker film critic Anthony Lane, when Weaver expressed the hope that Clinton would be the next president - and that more women would get into Congress. She also decried what she called the demonizing of Planned Parenthood.

And Clinton came up yet again in the final talk of the weekend, a conversation with Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator and star of the Broadway hit "Hamilton." Miranda mentioned that Clinton - who saw the show during its off-Broadway run, along with countless other notables - had thanked him backstage for including a (brief) mention of founding father John Jay. Clinton told Miranda that she loved Jay because he was a fellow "policy wonk."

Introducing the Miranda talk, New Yorker editor David Remnick requested of the packed audience: "All I ask is, don't beg him for tickets to you-know-what." And a questioner ribbed Miranda about the show's pricey (and elusive) tickets, saying she had "bankrupted her family" to see the show.

Moderator Rebecca Mead congratulated Miranda, who last week was announced as a winner of the MacArthur "genius" grant, for now being "officially a genius." Miranda explained that he almost didn't get the call with the good news because he kept sending it to voice mail, convinced it was the cable company he had just dumped. Finally he picked up the call. "I was ready for a fight," he said.





TWITTER GIVES CO-FOUNDER JACK DORSEY A 2ND CHANCE AS CEO

Twitter is embracing Jack Dorsey as its CEO in hopes that its once-spurned co-founder can hatch a plan to expand the short messaging service's audience and end nearly a decade of financial losses.

The hiring revealed Monday in a regulatory filing ends Twitter's three-month search for a new leader. It marks Dorsey's second stint as CEO since he helped start the San Francisco company more than nine years ago with Evan Williams, Biz Stone and Noah Glass.

Twitter dumped Dorsey his first time around, but its board of directors is now convinced he has the maturity and expertise to fix the problems that have caused the company's stock to lose nearly half its value in the past five months.

"As a founder and inventor of the product, Jack knows more about Twitter than anyone else," said Peter Currie, the Twitter director who led the search for a new CEO.

Investors applauded the move as Twitter's stock surged $1.84, or 7 percent, to close at $28.15.

Dorsey, 38, has already had dress rehearsal for the job, having become Twitter's interim CEO in July after former stand-up comedian and veteran entrepreneur Dick Costolo stepped down amid shareholder discontent. Costolo is relinquishing his seat on Twitter's board now that Dorsey is permanent CEO.

Twitter had considered its chief revenue officer, Adam Bain, and several other CEO candidates before settling on Dorsey. Bain, 42, is being promoted to chief operating officer to handle more duties as he teams up with Dorsey to try to turn Twitter into a profitable business.

"The world needs a Twitter that not only remains relevant, but thrives and continues to redefine what came before it," Dorsey told analysts Monday during a conference call. "It is our goal to exceed the expectations that the world has for us."

Dorsey will no longer be Twitter's chairman, but he will continue as CEO of Square Inc., a company he co-founded in 2009, as he prepares that company for its initial public offering of stock. Twitter plans to recruit an outsider to become Twitter's new chairman, Currie said.

In its hiring of Dorsey, Twitter's board recanted on a pledge issued in late June when it vowed to pick a CEO who would be able to make a "full-time commitment" to the company. Currie said the board changed its mind as it watched Dorsey



surpass its expectations as interim CEO and help Twitter "find a new gear under his leadership."

As CEO of two companies simultaneously, Dorsey can draw more parallels to Apple co-founder Steve Jobs - a comparison that Dorsey has never discouraged.

After being ousted from Apple in the mid-1980s, Jobs came back as the company's interim CEO in 1997 and then stayed on to oversee the creation of the iPod, iPhone and iPad.

While running Apple, Jobs also was CEO of computer animation pioneer Pixar until the company was sold to Disney in 2006.

The headquarters of Twitter and Square are within a block of each other, possibly making it easier for Dorsey to split his duties at the two companies.

RBC Capital Markets analyst Mark Mahaney is worried Dorsey's dual CEO jobs will create a "more challenging environment than necessary" at Twitter.

R.W. Baird analyst Colin Sebastian said the decision is a step in the right direction for Twitter.

"We believe Dorsey has the requisite vision and organizational clout to address some of Twitter's major challenges," Sebastian wrote in a research note.

Dorsey's biggest challenge at Twitter will be finding a way to make the site easier to navigate and broaden its appeal beyond media junkies, athletes, celebrities and politicians.

The short messaging service has amassed more than 300 million users but its growth has been









slowing to the frustration of investors, even as people spend more time online, particularly on their smartphones.

"Currently, the product makes people do lot of work to realize the value," Dorsey said.

Facebook has hooked 1.5 billion people on its online social network and even its photo-sharing application, Instagram, has surpassed Twitter in size. Unlike Twitter, Facebook has been making money for years and its stock has more than doubled from its IPO price. In contrast, Twitter's stock is barely above its IPO price of $26 nearly two years after its market debut.

Dorsey should be highly motivated to lift the stock price, given he owns a 3 percent stake in Twitter currently worth about $600 million.

Dorsey might attempt to draw more traffic to Twitter and engage more people by lifting the 140-character limit that he originally imposed on tweets so they would fit under the restrictions imposed at that time on phone texting. Since Dorsey became interim CEO, Twitter already has already tossed out the 140-character limit private messages sent through Twitter.

Increasing the length of tweets, though, might alienate some of Twitter's most loyal and active users, who have embraced the 140-character limit as an exercise in eloquence.

Dorsey must ensure that Twitter's steadily rising revenue begins to produce profits relatively soon. Although the company generated $938 million in revenue during the first half of this year, Twitter still lost $299 million. That raised Twitter's total losses since its inception to $1.9 billion.

THEATER GOSSIP MICHAEL RIEDEL WRITES A HISTORY OF BROADWAY

When you read New York Post theater columnist Michael Riedel, there's no mistaking whom the writer is. He's snarky and skewering and gleeful. That makes his latest project all the more interesting.

The acid-tongued stage gossip has written a book about Broadway's history and he's not opinionated or snarky at all. There's no Michael Riedel.

"I try to make my columns kind of punchy, light and breezy - bim, boom, rat-a-tat-tat. The old gossip style, I like that. The jangle of the town, the jangle of Broadway," he said. "But I knew that I couldn't sustain a 400-page book with that style because it would become incredibly tedious."

The result is "Razzle Dazzle: The Battle for Broadway," a very entertaining look at how the Great White Way has been shaped over the past century. To write it, the 48-year-old conducted some 70 interviews and read 40 books.

"I never thought about writing a book in my life," he said. "As a writer, I'm a sprinter. I do 750 words and I go have drinks with my friends. That's my life."

Riedel, who by some is feared and even loathed, in person is charming and eloquent. His modest apartment in the West Village reveals a Columbia University history major's love of books - titles on everything from Hafez Assad to Saki and Willem de Kooning.

To write his history of the Great White Way, he decided to interview all the key players, set scenes and let the story be told through the

characters. "I tried to take myself out of it and let them do the talking," he said.

The book explores the rivalry between the two big theatrical dynasties - the Nederlanders and the Shuberts - as well as the transformation of Broadway from a seedy, scary place to family-friendly tourist trap.

He deals with the devastation wreaked by AIDS, the controversial decision to build the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square, the creation of key shows like "A Chorus Line" and the British invasion led by Andrew Lloyd Webber. His backroom stories are fascinating.

"A lot of writers, certainly people writing their first books, feel this need to impress on every line how smart they are," said Ben Loehnen, Riedel's editor at Simon & Schuster. "Not with Michael. There's not this sense that he's tripping over himself to impress you. He is just telling you what he knows."

While writing, Riedel would lean on three books he admires - Gay Talese's "The Kingdom and the Power," David Halberstam's "The Powers That Be" and Robert Caro's "The Power Broker."

"I thought, 'Well, I'm never going to be the kind of writer those guys are, but I'm going to try to do what they did and the way they let their history unfold - dramatic, compelling and character-driven,'" said Riedel.

"Look, I'm a literary thief, like all writers. And if you're going to steal, you might as well steal from ones that got the goods."

He usually typed away cross-legged on his laptop resting on his coffee table, starting work every day in the midafternoon and ending hours later. "I knew when it was working when I would start writing and I had no sense of time," he said.

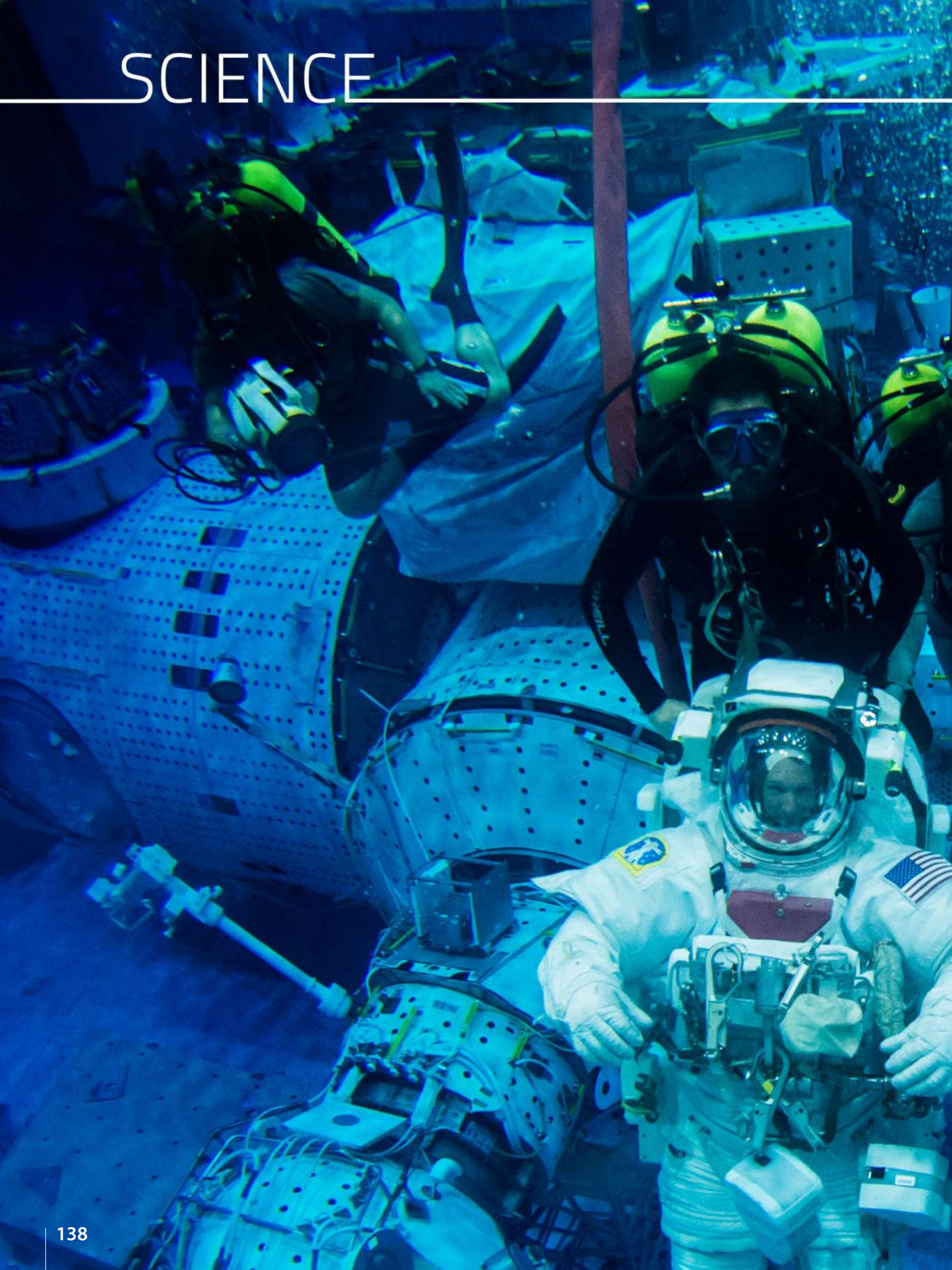
Riedel, who is also a co-host of PBS' "Theater Talk," has been a fixture on Broadway for more than two decades. He spoke to producers, actors, press agents, union honchos and anyone who had something juicy. (He said only two people turned him down - mogul David Geffen and former theater critic Frank Rich.)

"As with everything in life, timing - especially for a book like this - is everything. People were still around but enough time had gone by that they could be open and candid," said Riedel. "It's probably arrogant to say, but I don't think anyone could have written this book but me because I was there at the right time."

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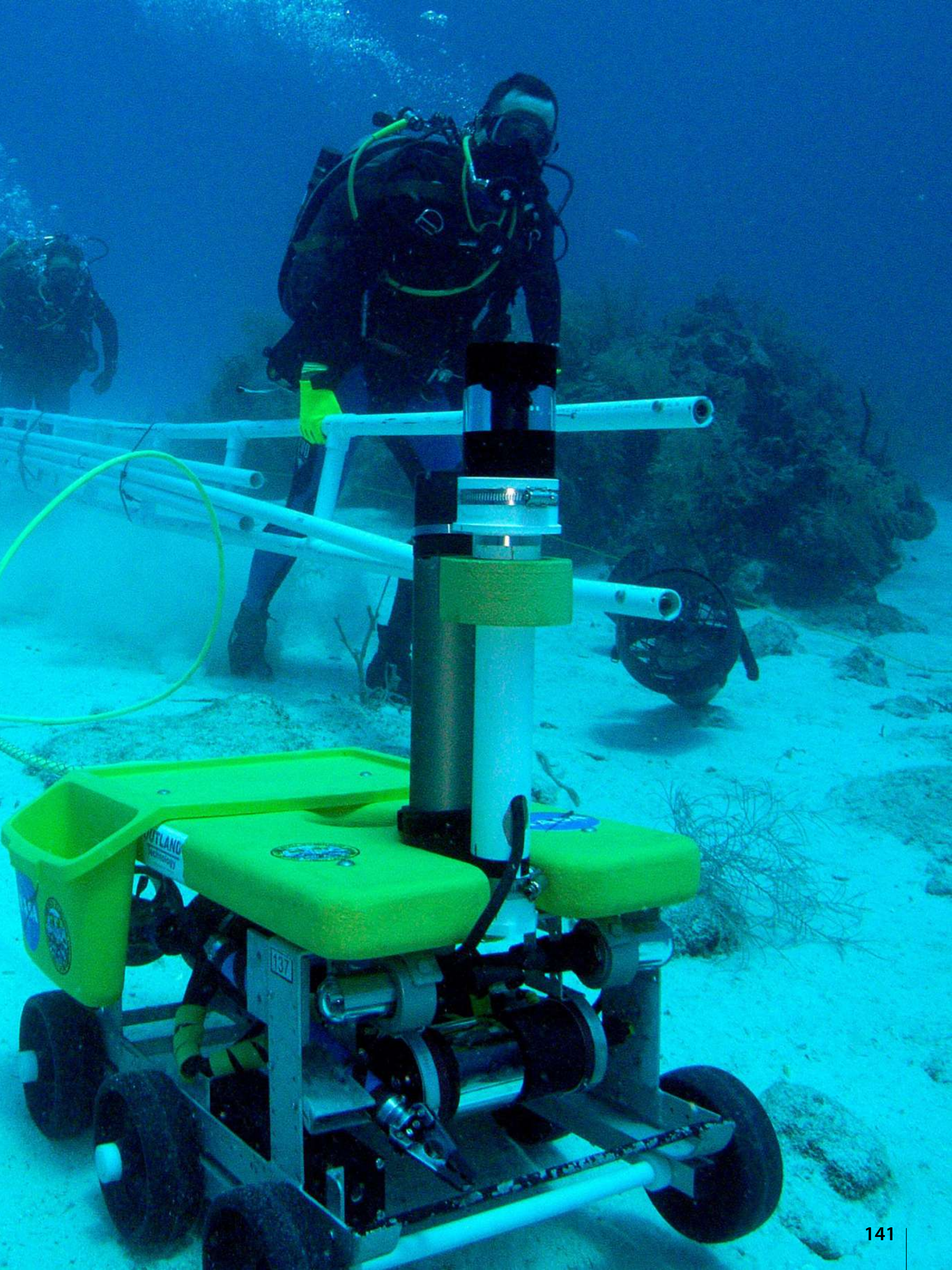
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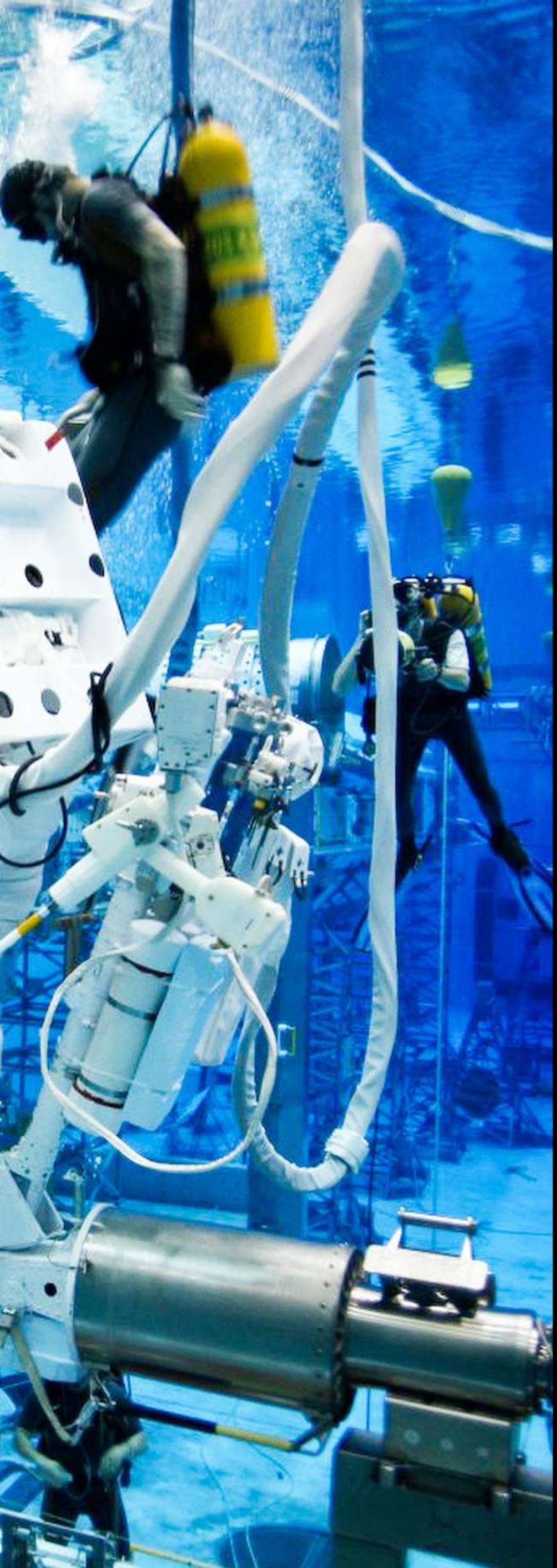
As NASA contemplates a manned voyage to Mars and the effects missions deeper into space could have on astronauts, it's tapping research from another outfit with experience sending people to the deep: the U.S. Navy submarine force.

The space agency is working with a military laboratory at the submarine base in Groton, Connecticut, to measure how teams cope with stress during month-long simulations of space flight.

While one travels through outer space and the other the ocean's depths, astronauts and submariners face many of the same challenges. Isolated for long stretches of time, they rely on crewmates for their lives in remote, inhospitable environments.

"We have a shared interest with the Navy in team resilience," Brandon Vessey, a scientist with NASA's human research program, told The Associated Press. "When you stick people together for a long period of time, how are they going to do?"





The Navy research that piqued NASA's interest started about five years ago when the Groton-based Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, at the request of the submarine force, began examining ways to make tactical teams work together better.

Through observation of submarine crews, the Navy scientists developed a way to evaluate how teams are performing. The study singled out important team practices including dialogue, critical thinking and decision-making and developed a way to assess how teams respond to setbacks. The research was made available more than a year ago to submarines' commanding officers, but it has not yet been institutionalized by the Navy.

"If this tool can identify precursors of when a team is about to change, that's particularly what we're hoping for," said Jerry Lamb, the lab's technical director.

The experiment with NASA is expected to begin in January or February. The space agency is taking a bigger interest in human behavior issues as it pursues the capability to send humans to an asteroid by 2025 and to Mars in the 2030s.

NASA is using a capsule about the size of a two-bedroom apartment at the Johnson Space Center in Houston to study how astronauts might perform and behave during lengthy missions. Four volunteers at a time live and work for 30 days at a time aboard the habitat, known as the Human Exploration Research Analog, which includes an airlock and is supported by a small version of mission control.

Video and audio recordings of the subjects from the experiment with the Navy lab will be sent to scientists in Connecticut for their analysis.

Ronald Steed, a former submarine commander who participated in the Navy's research, said the experience aboard a space ship will resemble that of submariners more as it travels farther into space and faces a longer delay in communications with Earth.

"Like a submarine commander can't always call to shore, you can't just call back to Earth for advice," he said. "The commander's going to have to have a set of tools that let him or her look at the crew and make a determination about where they are."

TWEETS PROMOTING NEW 'CALL OF DUTY' GAME DRAW CRITICISM

A series of promotional tweets for the latest "Call of Duty" video game came under some criticism because they described a terrorist attack with no immediate disclaimers stating that they were fictional.

The "War of the Worlds"-style tweets sent Tuesday were designed to look like those of a news organization. The first tweet announced "breaking news" in all capital letters and unconfirmed reports of an explosion at the Singapore Marina.

Later tweets announced declarations of a state of emergency and martial law, along with the dispersion of riot police and attempts by people to flee a new "quarantine zone."

Several news organizations posted screen captures showing that the "Call of Duty" Twitter feed's user name, profile image and background photo were changed to look like those of a news organization, though the @callofduty Twitter handle remained unchanged.

Some Twitter followers appeared confused initially, tweeting replies such as "what the heck?" Then replies grew critical, calling the tweets "utterly distasteful" and "irresponsible." "This tweet comes at a bad time considering with what's going on in the world," another read.

The account later stated that the tweets were promotional and the account reverted back to its usual appearance, but the tweets were still posted Thursday.

"Call of Duty: Black Ops III" takes place in a fictional city overrun by zombies. Officials for Activision Blizzard Inc. of Santa Monica, California, which produces the "Call of Duty" games, didn't immediate respond to requests for comment.





DATA HACK AT 7 TRUMP HOTELS CONFIRMED

Customer credit and debit card numbers may have been stolen at seven Trump hotels after its payment systems were hacked for over a year.

The Trump Hotel Collection said on its website that hackers gained access to its systems between May 2014 and June 2015 at the front desk of those hotels. Hotel restaurants and gift shops were also hacked.

The hotel operator said an independent forensic investigation has not found any evidence of customer's information being misused. The company is offering affected customers a year of free identity theft protection.



The potential thefts occurred at the Trump SoHo New York, Trump International New York, Trump National Doral in Miami, Trump International Chicago, Trump International Waikiki in Hawaii, Trump International Hotel and Tower Las Vegas and Trump International Toronto.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is chairman and president of Trump Hotel Collection and three of his children have executive roles.

Trump Hotel said it is working with the U.S. Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to help catch these criminals and prosecute them to the full extent of the law.

Other luxury hotel chains, such as the Mandarin Oriental, have reported data breaches this year.

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